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USSR PRESENTS DRAFT MISSILE TREATY IN GENEVA

LD271544 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva April 27 TASS -- A plenary meeting of delegations took place here today at another round of Soviet-American talks for the group on intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) missiles.

The delegation of the USSR at the meeting submitted the Soviet draft of a treaty between the USSR and the United States on eliminating the Soviet and U.S. INF missiles in Europe and on other measures to limit and reduce the INF missiles of the USSR and the United States, as well as draft agreed statements and general understandings concerning it.

The Soviet documents, taking into account corresponding elements of the American draft, furnish a constructive basis for working out in a short time provisions for inclusion in a joint draft INF treaty.

OBUKHOV COMMENTS ON GENEVA TALKS PROGRESS

LD271714 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] As has already been reported, at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva, the latest round of talks for the group concerned with medium-range missiles has begun:

[Begin recording] [Dmitriyev] The lively interest in this round of talks can be judged, if by nothing else, by the special correspondents who have come from Paris, Rome, Madrid, and other European capitals to cover the talks. The majority of journalists believe that there is potential for success at the talks. The two countries' specialists are faced with the crucial task of preparing a joint draft treaty to do away with Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe in accordance with the formula struck at Reykjavik. In the view of the Soviet side, there could be a treaty as early as this year. [video cuts to A.A. Obukhov, identified by screen caption as ambassador at large and deputy head of the Soviet delegation, addressing camera]

[Obukhov] The work ahead will not be easy, if one takes into account that the U.S. approach, as we now know it, includes some elements known to be unconstructive. Among these, for instance, are the suggestion that, instead of scrapping U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe, they might convert them to other types of weapons. Then there is the non-simultaneousness of medium-range missile reductions proposed in the U.S. draft. According to this proposal, for a lengthy period of time, only the Soviet Union would be engaged in reductions, while the United States would in fact even be able to build up its medium-range missiles. The U.S. intention of stationing its remaining medium-range missiles within range of Soviet territory is something else that does not accord with the goals of diminishing the nuclear threat.

However, difficulties of that nature are entirely surmountable, if one is striving to attain an effective and equitable accord that would equally consider the legitimate security interests of both sides.

[Dmitriyev] The coming weeks will show to what extent the U.S. side is prepared to display the political will so that the process of nuclear disarmament might at last move out of deadlock. [end recording]

SOVIET DELEGATE VIEWS CSCE CONFERENCE PROGRESS

AU221246 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 17 Apr 87 p 6

["The Vienna Meeting -- Assessment After Two Stages"]

[Excerpts] The second stage of the Vienna meeting of the states participating in the European Conference for Security and Cooperation has ended. Tsocho Kumanov, the SOFIA PRESS correspondent in Vienna, carried out a poll specially for RABOTNICHESKO DELO of the leaders of the following delegations: Bulgaria, Ambassador Lyuben Petrov; the Soviet Union, Ambassador Yuriy Kashlev; France, Ambassador Pierre-Henri Renard; and Finland, Ambassador Marku Reyma [spelling of name as published]. They gave answers to these two questions:

1. How do you assess the forum's work so far?

2. What new elements are contained in the proposals relating to the military aspects of security? [passage omitted]

Yuriy Kashlev (USSR):

1. We assess the fact that over 130 proposals have been submitted as a demonstration of the great interest in strengthening detente and cooperation in Europe, and in developing the Helsinki process. Naturally, this number of proposals makes the delegations' work more difficult, but it is better so than if there was a lack of proposals.

2. As you know, the socialist countries supported the idea of unofficial consultations with the NATO states in order to more speedily and effectively prepare fresh negotiations on reducing the armed forces and conventional arms in Europe. As a whole, these consultations are proceeding in a businesslike atmosphere. However, one serious obstacle still exists: The NATO states assert that the Warsaw Pact possesses a superiority, and therefore they are insisting not on disarmament, but on removing this superiority. Negotiations can hardly be held on this basis. We reject such a position. Of course, we are prepared to examine the question of imbalance, when it exists, but only in the process of a substantial mutual reduction in armed forces and conventional arms. [passage omitted]

U.S.-SOVIET CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ENDS SESSION

LD271718 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva April 27 TASS -- A regular session of the Soviet-American Permanent Consultative Commission ended here today. The commission was set up under the memorandum of understanding between the Soviet and American Governments of December 21, 1972. Its task is to promote the attaining of goals and provisions of the agreements concluded by the USSR and the U.S. on strategic arms limitation and on measures for lessening the danger of an outbreak of a nuclear war.

BOGACHEV ON EUROPEAN STANCE TOWARD DISARMAMENT

LD271630 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 27 Apr 87

["Atlantic Solidarity Obstructs Disarmament" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

The Soviet Union's new initiatives on nuclear missiles compelled governments and political parties of West European countries to reveal their real approach to problems of war and peace. It turned out, specifically, that some members of the current French cabinet are in the lead of the attack of the conservative circles of NATO countries against nuclear disarmament in Europe.

The essence of France's stand on the "zero option", the real reason behind the French slogan "Neither SS-20, nor Pershing missiles" have been laid here. The attitude of French officials to the Soviet proposals is viewed by Western observers as "emotional," "critical," and as "being even tougher than in other capitals of the European NATO countries."

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac came out on Sunday with a call to NATO countries to remain cautious against the Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament. He declared that withdrawal of shorter-range missiles from Europe could be dangerous since it would weaken the deterrence potential in Europe. Andre Giraud, defense minister in the Chirac cabinet, went so far as to describe the planned agreement on medium-range missiles as "nuclear Munich."

Going by official statements made in Paris, the Chirac cabinet is much more concerned over the prospect of the reduction of its nuclear forces in future, then over the threat of nuclear war which heightens now as new U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles are deployed in Western Europe.

As is known, the Soviet Government proclaimed its readiness not to take into account the British and French nuclear forces in the overall balance of forces in a proposed agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe. And this was a serious concession, for the French military openly measure the might of their nuclear forces by the number of Soviet cities they can destroy in a war against socialist countries.

But high officials in Paris showing the political shortsightedness, constantly express concern that as soon as the USSR withdraws its theatre missiles from Europe it will be even more difficult for France to justify the existence of its nuclear force. And this is proclaimed in Paris to be as all but the main threat to peace in the European Continent.

Meanwhile France adopted a program of the intensive buildup of its nuclear forces. And there is no doubt that they target socialist countries. Paris expands its "zone of responsibility in Europe," as the Americans put it, and replaces Pluton missiles with range of 120 kilometres with Hades missiles that can hit targets in the territories of Czechoslovakia and the GDR. The number of nuclear warheads with which French sea-based and land-based missiles are fitted out will increase four-fold by 1992 to reach 600 units. As an American journalist noted, it the French nuclear forces are a joke, it becomes less and less funny.

The stand of Paris on questions of nuclear disarmament does not go together in the present conditions even with the declaration of France's striving to maintain a balance between independence and solidarity with the United States.

MOSCOW TV ON EUROPEAN MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES STAND

LD270550 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Apr 87

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov]

[Text] Some of the last week's events give one every reason to recall that at one time master gunsmiths decorated their gun barrels with the edifying inscription: The Last Argument of Kings. The saying was that if a monarch failed to convince his neighbors by his reasoning then guns would speak for him. Nowadays this method of resolving arguments has become no less old-fashioned than a cannonball compared with nuclear warheads. The future fate of mankind should be determined not by arguing with weapons but by using argument as a weapon and by recognizing the diversity and interdependence of the modern world.

These thoughts resounded again last week in the Kremlin. It was marked by visits from the leader of fraternal Poland Wojciech Jaruzelski and the president of friendly Syria Hafiz al-Asad. Soviet-U.S. talks on medium-range missiles resumed in Geneva on 23 April. Incidentally, NATO remains in a state of alarm caused by the visit to Moscow by the U.S. secretary of state. After their emergency session in Brussels the NATO people met again at a U.S. Air Force base. General Rogers, commander of the bloc's Armed Forces in Europe delivered a report to them. It was so secret that its contents were expounded at the same time in the weekly NEWSWEEK. Completely unabashed, the commander in chief reported the extremely unpleasant news that the Soviet Union is trying to turn Western Europe into a nuclear-free zone. But having exposed the full extent of the Kremlin's maneuver, the frankness of a soldier added: "We must be capable of using nuclear weapons first in response to a Soviet attack involving the use of conventional weapons."

With their backs against the wall, the NATO politicians are forced to point the finger, as the saying goes. In recent times, European leaders have not been averse to depicting themselves as supporters of the elimination of both Soviet and U.S. missiles. According to them, the problem has been that Washington and Moscow cannot agree among themselves. But now, to judge by all accounts, the partners have exchanged roles and it is now the U.S. Administration that is taking refuge behind someone else's back. Allegedly the United States isn't against it, but the allies are wavering.

It was sufficient for the Soviet Union to untie the Reykjavik package for operational and tactical missiles to be declared obstacles to agreement on medium-range weapons. Then when the USSR expressed its readiness to eliminate them in full over a 1-year period, the NATO people kicked up a fuss, saying that that was not what they had meant. What they are interested in is not reductions by the Soviet side but in upgrading of arms by the U.S. side. The alarm in Western European capitals smacks of a crude farce. They are calling for a redoubling of vigilance and caution since allegedly Moscow is behaving suspiciously and taking repeated steps to meet the West.

PAPER SAYS NATO 'UNDERMINES' STOCKHOLM ACCORDS

PM271051 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[Colonel I. Bogdanov article: "Strengthening Confidence and Lessening the Danger. How the Stockholm Accords Are Operating"]

[Text] At the meeting in Vienna of the representatives of 33 European states, the United States, and Canada, where the problems of European security and cooperation are

being discussed, the participants are devoting their constant attention to questions of implementing the accords reached at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe. And this is no coincidence. The Stockholm accords are now essentially the touchstone against which the true intentions of each of the all-European conference participant states are tested.

The Stockholm accords represented a great step toward easing tension and improving the European political climate. As CPSU General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev has remarked, at the Stockholm conference the socialist countries, in constructive cooperation with its other participants, has done much to find solutions to such key questions as the nonuse of force, the notification of military exercises and troop movements, the exchange of annual plans for military activity, the invitation of observers, and monitoring.

The Stockholm accords represent measures formulated in detail which, given their strict fulfillment (and this is an indispensable condition), are designed to improve understanding of the nature of military activity conducted by the participant states, strengthen confidence, and lessen the danger of armed conflict in Europe. For example, notifications of forthcoming ground forces exercises in which no fewer than 13,000 men or 800 tanks will be engaged, the exchange of annual plans of military activity subject to notification, and other accords are intended to serve this purpose. How are they being implemented?

The representatives of Czechoslovakia, Poland, the GDR, and the Soviet Union were first to give their assessments and conclusions on this question at the Vienna meeting, informing the participants of the measures taken in their respective countries to implement the Stockholm accords. The public and the meeting participants positively assess the actions of the Warsaw Pact countries with regard to the implementation of the accord. In the opinion of the majority of them this demonstrates the conscientious attitude of the socialist countries to the fulfillment of their obligations. The NATO countries have not as yet submitted such information on their military activities either during the course of the Vienna meeting or in their mass media.

Maybe this is due to the fact that the North Atlantic bloc is not engaging in military activity subject to notification? Nothing of the kind. Such activity is taking place and, in the opinion of Western military specialists, no substantial changes in the thrust and intensiveness of the NATO Armed Forces' operational and combat training are expected in 1987. The NATO states have submitted to all the other all-European conference participants plans for notifiable military activity in 1987 that include 17 military exercises, including 2 major transfers of troops from the United States to Europe. True, 14 of the bloc countries' 17 military measures are scheduled for August-Novemeber; however, intensive troop training has been under way within NATO's Armed Forces since the start of this year.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written that at the beginning of January the United States held a major command staff exercise on FRG territory under the code name "Caravan Guard" employing troops of the 5th Army Corps. As has become known, 23,000 men took part in it. In terms of its parameters this exercise was subject to notification, and observers should have been invited to it, but on a formal pretext the U.S. command not only did not invite observers to this exercise but did not even inform anyone about it in advance.

Even today attention is drawn to the fact that a number of NATO countries are, to put it mildly, negligent in fulfilling their Stockholm commitments. In particular, the United States and Norway, citing technical reasons, were late in submitting annual plans for notifiable military activity, while Canada, Portugal, and Italy have not submitted to the other states either plans or announcements to the effect that they will not be carrying out notifiable military activity in 1987.

To be blunt, curious information was received in the preliminary notification about the joint British-Norwegian troop exercise "Cold Winter-87." Areas earmarked for individual stages of the exercises did not coincide with the general exercise area, and the coordinates of one of the troop-loading points were given incorrectly; and it turned out that troops taking part in the exercise were operating on the territory of neutral Sweden.

Such an attitude to the observance of the Stockholm document's commitments -- which as is well known are of a politically binding nature -- undermines the accords reached and intensifies mistrust on the part of other countries participating in the all-European process.

The Soviet Union's and the other Warsaw Pact states' understanding of the Stockholm accords is precisely this. Within a precisely established deadline and strictly in accordance with an agreed formula they have submitted such plans of nofitifiable military activity for 1987. All in all these include 25 different military exercises involving both ground and airborne forces, which are taking place in various areas of the Warsaw Pact countries, including within the limits of the European part of the USSR. It is planned to invite foreign observers to nine of these exercises.

The USSR has notified all Stockholm conference participants that in 1988 major ground force maneuvers will take place on Soviet territory in the region of Lvov, Donetsk, Orel, and Polotsk, involving more than 75,000 men and up to 2,000 tanks.

Since the beginning of this year socialist countries have given notification of 11 exercises, including 6 exercises on the territory of the RSFSR, Belorussia, the Ukraine, and the Transcaucasus republics. Foreign observers were invited to a number of these that took place on the territory of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the GDR. Thus, for example, observers from 20 countries including 11 NATO countries were present at the combined force exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and the GDR National People's Army at the end of March. According to the observers' assessments, all the necessary working conditions were created for them as stipulated by the Stockholm document. Over 4 days they had the opportunity to directly observe the course of the exercises, talk with the participants and convince themselves of the nonthreatening nature of this activity for countries continguous with the GDR, and see troop-training actions in field conditions. "This exercise," said Brigadier General Mallory, the U.S. observer, in an interview for GDR radio, "has served to strengthen mutual trust not only in Europe by also throughout the world."

The USSR regards the execution of the Stockholm accords not as a short-term campaign but as a solid basis for the further development of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, one that creates the prerequisites for moving on in the very near future to the elaboration of entirely new confidence-building measures and measures to ensure military strategic stability in Europe, and to the reduction of armed forces and conventional and nuclear armaments in Europe.

U.S. NUCLEAR TEST STAND 'UNCONSTRUCTIVE'

LD250828 Moscow TASS in English 0633 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 25 TASS -- The U.S. Administration is not planning to end nuclear testing and observe the Soviet-American SALT-2 treaty. This follows from the statement made on Friday by Charles Redman, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department.

He was asked at a briefing for newsmen to comment on the U.S. Administration's reaction on additional federal appropriations in the current fiscal year approved at the House of Representatives on Friday. The congressmen adopted amendments to that document making it incumbent upon the administration to end underground nuclear testing with a yield of more than one kilotons [as received] and observe limitations under the SALT-2 treaty.

Charles Redman said that the U.S. Administration's stand on these two problems had long been known. The White House, he said, views the bill on additional appropriations as being unacceptable since it makes it incumbent to abide by the provisions of the SALT-2 treaty and limits nuclear testing.

Indeed, official Washington's unconstructive stand on the question of putting an end to nuclear blasts and the need for observing the contractual-legal fundamentals of the process of limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons has long been known. In the course of 18 months, while the Soviet Union observed its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear blasts proposing the USA to follow suit, Washington stubbornly refused to make this step that would open up a real prospect for reaching agreement on the toal prohibition of nuclear testing.

The USA excused its stand by references that the ending of nuclear testing would, allegedly, jeopardise the U.S. nuclear weapons at the proper level. Use was made of a myth that the USA is "lagging behind the USSR" as regards the number of nuclear tests. In so doing, the administration tried to pass over in silence the fact that the USA needed nuclear testing to carry out work within the framework of the programmme to militarise outer space.

As far as the Soviet-American SALT-2 treaty is concerned, the USA motivated its refusal to observe it by the claim that the highly important document had become ineffective and even put the U.S. side into a disadvantageous position. Yet, things were much simpler in real fact, since by rejecting the SALT-2 treaty the USA has simply gained for itself a free hand for a further build-up of strategic weapons.

Thus the latest statement by the spokesman for the U.S. State Department is evidence that Washington does not intend to change its attitude to the most important problems involved in curbing the arms race, an approach which prevents progress in the field of limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons.

TASS CITES U.S. PHYSICISTS' OPPOSITION TO SDI

LD242154 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 24 TASS -- The biggest physicists organisation in the USA, the American Physical Society, submitted to the Congress its report evaluating the state of work in the framework of the "Strategic Defence Initiative" which envisages the creation of strike space arms.

The authors of the document consider just one specific question of how real as a whole is the project of creating SDI. The project which, as President Ronald Reagan asserted, will make nuclear weapons "obsolete and important". The physicists are of the opinion that decades will pass before it will become clear if that design is real. The authors of the report also point out that at least till 1997 it will be impossible to answer the question if the creation of laser and ray anti-missile weapons is in principle feasible.

Though the document views only the scientific and technological aspects of SDI without taking into consideration the impact of the "Star Wars" programme of international security and arms control its authors deemed it necessary to warn that the use of an ABM system will space-basing elements will entail a large-scale radioactive contamination of the United States territory if nuclear strikes are exchanged.

One of the authors of the report, Professor Ruth House, declared that SDI cannot end the public's concern about nuclear menace. The document also refutes assertions of Washington representatives about the "non-nuclear nature" of SDI. American physicists emphasize that the creation of arms systems in SDI framework will entail orbiting nuclear reactors on platforms in near-earth space.

The conclusion of the American scientists has dealt the strongest blow at SDI in all the period it exists, this is how the NBC television network commented on the report's publishing. The ASSOCIATED PRESS stated that report submitted by the physicists sharply contradicts the viewpoint expressed by U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and other representatives of the administration. They insist on early decision to deploy arms systems under the "Star Wars" programme in the early nineties.

At the same time, as the ABC television company warns in this connection, SDI is more than a programme. It is an ideology with Washington, and the Pentagon intends to insist on SDI even if it will have less and less supporters.

KARPOV DUE IN MADRID TO EXPLAIN PROPOSALS

AU241139 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Madrid, April 24 (AFP) -- The former head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva disarmament talks, Victor Karpov, is due in Madrid on Monday for a two-day working visit, official sources said here Friday.

Mr Karpov will brief Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez on the Soviet proposals for the elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe, the sources said.

The visit is seen by observers here as a goodwill gesture by Moscow to the Spanish government which has spoken in favour of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's disarmament proposals.

LATE REPORT: OBUKHOV SAYS MISSILE AGREEMENT POSSIBLE

LD281321 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] An agreement on eliminating Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe can be signed as early as this year, deputy chief Soviet negotiator Aleksey Obukhov told newsmen in Geneva. As soon as it's signed it would be possible to start talks on ridding Europe of all Soviet and American tactical missiles and on substantially reducing the number in other parts of the world.

With reference to the draft treaty presented by the USSR yesterday, Obukhov said that the draft is based on a compromise and that it takes into account many important provisions of the American document submitted earlier. On questions of verification, for instance, the USSR favors even stricter control than the United States does. The American version contains a number of unconstructive elements but these difficulties can be overcome, Aleksey Obukhov stressed.

LATE REPORT: USSR PROPOSES TOTAL REMOVAL OF SRINF'S

AU281121 Paris AFP in English 1119 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva, April 28 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union has proposed total removal of short-range nuclear missiles (SRINF) in Europe and parity between Soviet and United States SRINF stationed elsewhere, in Soviet Asia and the U.S., Aleksey Obukhov, Soviet assistant chief negotiator said here Tuesday.

Mr Obukhov told a press conference that the Soviet proposals for a treaty on intermediate missiles, made at Monday's session, were based on the agreement sketched out at the Reykjavik summit last November between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

This called for elimination of missiles in Europe and reduction of other intermediate-range nuclear missiles (INF) to 100 warheads for each side, to be sited respectively in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and in the United States.

Mr Obukhov said the Soviet Union would oppose siting of American INF in places such as Alaska, within range of Soviet territory, and replacement of INF missiles by SRINF weapons in Europe.

The Soviet stance for the first time proposes either a separate agreement on SRINF, or inclusion of short-range weapons in a single intermediate-range treaty, Mr Obukhov said.

The Soviet negotiator rejected any linkage between certain types of nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

Answering a question, Mr Obukhov said any treaty would evidently apply to short-range U.S.-controlled Pershing 1 missiles stationed in West Germany.

SILAYEV INTERVIEWED ON CEMA 'DIRECT LINKS'

AU150859 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 9 Apr 87 p 4

[NOVOSTI interview with Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Bureau for Machine Building of the Council of Ministers, "specially for RABOTNICHESKO DELO": "In Production Activity a Sure Mechanism is Needed"]

[Text] [NOVOSTI] At the 42d CEMA session the leaders of the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, USSR, and CSSR signed an intergovernmental agreement for developing direct links between enterprises and for setting up joint enterprises and collectives of specialists. Could you summarize how the direct links are developing in the machine-building complex?

[Silayev] The interests of socialist economic integration do not only require the agreement to economic policy and national economic plans at the state level. The time has come to include the direct producers and initiators in the process for adopting decisions. Under the conditions of rapidly expanding scientific and technical progress it is absolutely necessary to possess a sure mechanism for efficiently and flexibly adapting production in order to master the new types of production. The direct links between economic enterprises and collectives of specialists are a tool through which production can effectively react to the achievements of science.

Of course, the work does not merely consist of this. The direct contacts between the enterprises will contribute to deepening the specialization of production and raising the efficiency of the international socialist division of labor. Intrabranch production sharing, which is intensified through the direct links, will provide an opportunity to proceed to wider specialization at the level of components and assemblies.

[NOVOSTI] And is everything proceeding smoothly, without any problems?

[Silayev] No, of course not. As in any new great venture, difficulties do exist. The main problems, in my view, are concealed in the old habit of the leaders of the enterprises to wait and see what the ministry will say. Under the conditions of the new method of management they must not be afraid themselves of solving the problems that crop up. They have the rights for this! Naturally, they should draw from the experience of trade and learn how to put their own products on the market.

[NOVOSTI] What can be said about multilateral links in setting up joint enterprises?

[Silayev] The cooperation of the CEMA member states in the machine-building complex is not merely restricted to bilateral relations. The first multilateral scientific-production trust "Interrobot" has been set up. Its main task is the production of promising industrial robot equipment of world standard. The countries taking part in this venture have already agreed on a broad program of activities.

[NOVOSTI] What is the importance of direct links for the fulfillment of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Member States Until the Year 2000?

[Silayev] The fulfillment of the Comprehensive Program requires a further improvement of the mechanism of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation of the countries of the socialist community, This has been stressed on more than one occasion at the most authoritative levels. I think that the formation of direct links and contacts and the setting up of joint enterprises is precisely one of the directions for such improvement. [paragraph continues]

I might even say more specifically: In my view the implementation of this program would give rise to a lot of problems if there were not close contacts between the enterprises, trusts, and scientific-production organizatiions of the fraternal countries.

[NOVOSTI] One quite often sees assertions in the Western media that the USSR is developing direct production links in order to impose a "hegemony" of the "senior partner." What do you have to say on this?

[Silayev] This reminds me of the old story about a pathological anti-Sovietist who, when he saw a camel in the zoo, said: "Look at how the Bolsheviks have disfigured the horse." For people like him, everything related to our work is bad.

Direct contacts are nothing more or less than an element of the new system for the international organization of production. This is how we should regard them. They are not restricted only to the CEMA framework. They are being built on a general base, namely the striving to make production as efficient and mutually advantageous as possible.

We in the Soviet machine-building branch have an entire package of proposals of Western firms (they are not afraid of the notorious "hegemony") for setting up joint enterprises and developing production cooperatives. We are not keeping to a passive position on this issue. Our organizations are also looking for partners.

The new political thinking requires not searching for mythical "Bolshevik intrigues," but effective, mutually beneficial joint work by workers and scientists, engineers and economic leaders from different countries. Everyone will gain from this.

CSSR'S ROHLICEK ARRIVES IN MOSCOW FOR CEMA MEETING

LD262235 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1930 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Soviet Union -- Rudolf Rohlicek, first deputy federal premier and permanent Czechoslovak CEMA representative, arrived in Moscow today to attend a meeting of permanent representatives of CEMA member countries. He was met at the airport by CEMA Secretary Vyacheslav Sychev and other representatives.

NEW CEMA ORGANIZATION FOR OCEAN EXPLOITATION

LD272203 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS -- Representatives of Bulgaria, Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Poland, the USSR and Czechoslovakia signed in Moscow today an agreement to institute a joint organization called Interokeanmetall.

The new organization of these countries which are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) will pool their efforts in prospecting for so-called polymetallic concretions in the oceans and preparing them for commercial development.

Interokeanmetall will ask the U.N. Preparatory Commission for an international agency on the seabed to allot plots in the Pacific or Atlantic oceans where it will be possible to mine these concretions in the future.

U.S. 'UNFRIENDLY ACT' AGAINST WALDHEIM NOTED

LD281049 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 28 TASS -- The Washington authorities took an unfriendly act against Federal President of the Austrian Republic Kurt Waldheim who had held the post of the U.N. secretary general between 1972 and 1982. It is reported here that the U.S. Justice Department banned his entry to the United States as a private person. It cited the fact in corroboration of its refusal that K. Waldheim had been called up by the Nazis during the Second World War in annexed Austria and served as an interpreter in the Wehrmacht.

K. Waldheim actively advocated a Middle East settlement as U.N. secretary general, which provoked ire of the Zionists in the USA, who launched a provocative campaign against him in the recent past.

Local political analysts point out that such an action against the head of a state has no precedent in the U.S. history.

Vienna April 28 TASS -- The decision by the U.S. Justice Department provoked a sharply negative response in Austria. Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said that Washington's step had puzzled President Waldheim and the entire country.

Foreign Minister Alois Mock pointed out that the Austrian side resolutely rejected such actions by the U.S. Administration, running counter to generally recognized rules. Mock said that as a result of this scandalous affair, the Austrian ambassador to Washington was urgently summoned to Vienna for consultations.

Speaking in Vienna, K. Waldheim said that Washington's decision was against principles of international law in the civilized world. One must not set forth unproven accusations, he said.

Today a meeting of the Austrian Council of Ministers will be held in Vienna. It will examine the situation which has developed as a result of the decision taken by the U.S. Justice Department.

'MAMMOTH DEMONSTRATIONS' HELD AGAINST U.S. POLICY

LD272200 Moscow TASS in English 1742 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 27 TASS -- The U.S. capital over the past three days has been the scene of the largest demonstrations agaisnt the Reagan administration's foreign policy in several years, whose scope can only be compared to the massive protest marches of the time of the Vietnam war.

The demonstrators, progressively-minded Americans opposed to Washington's neo-globalist policies in various parts of the world, demanded peace, disarmament and an end to support for the South African regime of apartheid.

They also urged action to prevent U.S. intervention in Central America.

The protestors numbered more than 100,000 people -- workers, students, farmers and activists of peace and religious organizations, who came here from different parts of the United States.

But U.S. mass media, including the major bourgeois papers and leading television networks, have been keeping silent about the mammoth demonstrations.

A rally in downtown Washington was addressed by Congressmen John Conyers and Walter Fointroy, Doctor Benjamin Spock, well-known peace campaigner Daniel Ellsberg and many other eminent public personalities and politicians of America.

Popular Afro-American leader Jesse Jackson called for public action for peace in Central America and for justice in southern Africa. He demanded an end to U.S. aid to the Contra gangs in Nicaragua and to Washington's backing for the South African regime of apartheid.

Clergyman Joseph Lowery, a veteran civil rights campaigner who is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said the administration had a penchant for talking about freedom but was exporting war and poverty across the globe. He said an end must be put to the policy of spending millions of dollars in aid to counter-revolutionaries in Central America at a time when the number of needy and homeless people in the United States was on the increase.

After the rally its participants walked from the White House to the Capitol, chanting: "We don't want war."

U.S. ECONOMIC OFFICIAL ENDS VISIT TO MOSCOW

LD242136 Moscow TASS in English 1141 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- James Giffen, president of the U.S.-USSR Trade Economic Council, ended his visit to Moscow today. During the stay in the Soviet Union he discussed the state of trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States and preparations for the 11th annual meeting of the council.

James Griffin held talks with senior officials from the state Foreign Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the Bank for Foreign Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the talks the sides also discussed matters related to the establishment and funding of joint enterprises and the participation of American Companies in the "Strojindustriya-87" (Building Industry-87) international exhibition to be held in Moscow in May 1987.

'EXCEPTIONAL TENSION' SEEN IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

LD191659 Moscow TASS in English 1601 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 19 TASS -- TASS commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

The hasty departure by Shintaro Abe, one of the more significant figures in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, for Washington today served a striking indication of the exceptional tension in U.S.-Japanese trade and economic relations at the moment.

The Tokyo-based newspaper MAINICHI said contradictions between the two countries in this field had reached a "critical mark," while the WASHINGTON POST described the state of affairs as an undeclared trade war.

The doubling of U.S. tariffs on a number of Japanese electronic products a day before was in effect the Washington's [as received] first really serious trade sanctions against its Far Eastern ally in the post-war period.

The United States says the measure is retaliation for Japan's failure to live up to a bilateral agreement on semi-conductors, which bans their dumping to third countries.

Japan, however, denies the charge and regards the U.S. sanctions as a violation of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs' principles of free trade without any discrimination.

Although Japanese firms had known in advance about the strong protectionist sentiment in U.S. Congress and the sanctions in the making against them, the announced tariff hikes were described as a draconian measure in the Japanese business community.

The reaction is easy to understand. The American sanctions affect more than 20 Japanese corporations, from such giants as Sony and Toshiba to small firms such as Makita which exports one-third of its products to the United States.

The U.S. market will now be effectively closed to it as the prices of Japanese electronic products there will double.

But the falling dollar rate as compared with the yen has already hit a number of Japanese exports to the United States hard.

Japanese cars, for example, are growing ever dearer to U.S. buyers. Over the past six months alone their prices in America have gone up over 20 percent.

Although Japanese Commerce and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura said Saturday it was essential at all costs to avoid a trade war with the United States because it would do irreparable damage to all world trade, he did not suggest any specific steps how that could be made sure.

So Abe is on a very difficult mission, the more so, the Japanese press points out, as he is not averse to taking the post of the prime minister and his further political career will depend in many ways on whether he is able to dampen down, even if for a limited time, the current, very serious flareup of U.S.-Japanese trade and economic rivalry.

Reagan, Abe Meet

OW231354 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1045 GMT 23 Apr 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Kudrin]

[Text] The trade war between the United States and Japan continues to rage. This is evidenced by the results of talks at the White House between President Reagan and Shintaro Abe, special Japanese envoy and former minister of foreign affairs, who is presently in Washington. It is the duty of Japan to do what is expected of it, Abe said diplomatically after meeting with Reagan.

Are you going to make concessions, asked reporters. The Japanese envoy preferred to avoid this question. He limited himself to general statements about Tokyo being prepared to open its doors wider to American goods, and refused to elaborate.

Commenting on the results of the talks, the President's assistant press aide said that the 100-percent tariffs on a series of imported goods manufactured by the Japanese electronic industry are not likely to be lifted before Prime Minister Nakasone's visit. He is expected in Washington on 29 April.

Meanwhile, preparations are being made in the U.S. capital for the presentation of quite a different gift. The U.S. House of Representatives intends, before the beginning of Nakasone's visit, to pass draft trade laws which would implement mandatory harsh sanctions against Japan and other countries that have large trade balance advantages.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole announced that the lawmakers are determined to demand punitive measures against Japan, with which the United States has a trade deficit of nearly $59 billion.

Anti-Japanese feelings have reached such heights that the White House is preparing to abandon the idea of allowing Nakasone to address Congress.

Besides electronics goods, another area of conflict in the trade war between the United States and Japan appeared quite unexpectedly. During the trade talks in Tokyo, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng demanded the opening of Japanese markets to American rice and the lowering of barriers on the import of meat, oranges, and other produce. The war is continuing.

Sanctions Imposed

LD172253 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Ivan Ablamov reports:

The United States has started a dramatic escalation of the trade war against its partners. The government council for Economic Policy headed by the U.S. approved at its latest sitting the decision to introduce a 100 per cent duty on a wide range of products of the Japanese electronic and electrical engineering industry. President Ronald Reagan will confirm the decision today by an official decree.

The new punitive measure unprecedented in the history of American-Japanese relations will inflict direct damage on Japanese firms amounting to 300 million dollars. Indirect damage to be inflicted by the decision aimed at undermining the competitiveness of Japanese electronic devices in the U.S. will be much greater. Japanese representatives stated that the U.S. market would be totally closed for some of their products.

Washington is explaining the new outbreak of the trade war with Japan by Tokyo's alleged failure to live up to the terms of the agreement signed last July by the two countries, under which Japan should stop its selling abroad of microcircuits at reduced prices and should open its market for American products.

However, the significance of the decision taken by the U.S. goes far beyond this explanation. Earlier the U.S. resorted to reprisals against its partners in connection with traditional manufactured goods, while this time a bitter controversy of unprecedented scope flashed up for the first time ever over high technology.

One cannot fail to notice that the new U.S. action reflects a further weakening of the U.S. position both in the sphere of foreign trade and in the sphere of high-technology products, while quite recently the U.S. claimed to be the leader in this field.

Washington's decision is somewhat humiliating to it. The U.S. has actually admitted before the whole world that it is helpless before Japan's 'electronic pressing' both in the world and American markets. The point at issue is not the dumping of which the U.S. accuses its partners, but the fact that the "Made in the U.S." label no longer guarantees high quality of U.S. products and confidence in them.

Cardinal measures are needed to restore the competitiveness of U.S. products, and it is admitted by the U.S. as well. However, instead of taking concrete steps for improving the quality of products and reducing arms expenditures which undermine the production base of U.S. economy, the U.S. uses power pressure on its partners.

The step taken by the U.S. has met with negative response not only in Japan, but also in Western Europe which is actively developing its electronic industry. Heated debate is expected to take place soon in GATT over U.S. unilateral actions. The changing correlation of forces in the socialist world naturally leads to the aggravation of contradictions between imperialist countries.

CHAKOVSKIY ASSAILS U.S. DENIAL OF VISAS

LD242141 Moscow TASS in English 1015 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- "The denial of visas for entry into the USA to Vladimir Simonov and Boris Korolev, leading journalists of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, is the U.S. Administration's discriminatory measure towards the Soviet press, which is telling the truth about America," a TASS correspondent was told by Aleksandr Chakovskiy, a prominent Soviet writer, editor-in-chief of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. He described the pretext, on which the visas were denied, as ridiculous. "The claims by the U.S. side that the two Soviet journalists are 'foreigners' who may engage themselves in subversive activities, is a staff appropriate for the 16th page of our newspaper, where all sorts of absurdites are ridiculed," Chakovskiy said.

"In connection with the denial of visas to the Soviet journalists I would like to draw attention to the hypocrisy displayed by the U.S. Administration. It always pays lip service to the need for human contacts and information exchanges. But as soon as it comes to specific exchanges, Soviet people are at times qualified as 'objectionable foreigners'," he continued. This was the case recently, for example, with workers, members of a trade union delegation. Now visas had been denied to journalists. I am sure that the real cause behind that move is that the U.S. State Department sees in them such people who can by their objective reporting reveal the real meaning of the American way of life."

Relations between our countries should be bettered. This would serve the interests of all. But denials of visas of this kind in no way contribute to that. Some people in the USA should change their traditional mentality, which is no longer appropriate today. This is my deep conviction," Aleksandr Chakovskiy said in conclusion. [quotation marks as received]

LIFE IN U.S. LEAVES SOVIET 'BROKEN' MAN

LD242152 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- TASS commentator Lyudmila Nikolayeva writes:

Ten year ago Boris Amarantov expected to find a Garden of Eden in America as those encouraging his departure abroad were dangling the promise of big-time success, sell-out concerts and every other "advantage" of living in a "free society".

Quite recently -- on March 3 -- soon after his return to the homeland he threw his elder sister out of the window and committed suicide during another fit of his mental illness.

Cynics in the West used the tragedy in that family for slanderous allegations.

Looking the truth in the eye, however, it is clear that the tragedy is a direct result of the misadventures Amarantov went through in the last ten years of his life -- from the moment in 1977 when he left the USSR for the United States, deserting his son and wife.

During his first two years overseas he had concerts and even success, the beautiful tales about America seemed to be coming true.

But the old contract expired, while the new one failed to materialize.

Amarantov took up teaching and become a pantomine instructor. He then lived in Brooklyn, while the school where he gave his classes was a five hours' ride away. The tiring ten hours of travel a day wore him down, and he had to give up the job.

The money ran out and Amarantov had to knock about looking for a shelter for the night. The state of his health went from bad to worse.

During his homeless years he ran into all kind of people in "free" America: Several times he was beaten up and survived attempts on his life.

All that could not but force a psychological breakdown in him.

In the end a lay brother took pity on him and offered him lodging.

It was hardly the life he had dreamt about. There was no question of any concerts. That was something he could only think of.

Amarantov had no future in the United States, only the past and the nightmarish present. He longed to return home, to his native land and to his near and dear ones separation with whom grew ever more painful.

He realized that he would not be able ever to strike root in that "promised land" which had deprived him of the right to housing, work and medical treatment instead of giving him the offered "freedom".

So he went to the Soviet Embassy and asked for permission to return to the USSR.

After receiving that permission, Amarantov borrowed the money he needed for an air ticket to the USSR, which he only managed with a difficulty, and took the first plane to Moscow.

His relatives he had once abandoned were only glad to welcome him back. But Boris was hard to recognize: He was excited and nervous all the time and asked not to turn off the light as he was afraid of staying in dark.

The relatives, most notably his brother and sister, realized he was apparently ill and sought to surround him at home with an affectionate warmth they hoped could save the sick soul.

Amarantov wanted to work. He visited the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and was offered there a job with a self-supporting pantomine workshop.

He wrote to the Soviet Government to thank it for the opportunity it had given him to return to the homeland. Things appeared to be sorting themselves out and life was getting back into its right course. But the disease was telling. Amarantov complained of headaches. He became ever more hypochondriac and at times aggressive.

The years spent in America had broken him, made him a mentally ill man. The years he had hoped would be the best in his life turned out fatal -- ten years that crossed out a life.

IGNATYEV DEEMS U.S. LAW DAY 'SHEER HYPOCRISY'

LD242045 Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 24 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev:

President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring May 1 as Law Day, USA. On the day, which is celebrated worldwide as that of working people's international solidarity day, the Americans have been told to "focus their attention on the need for the rule of law."

This statement smacks of sheer hypocrisy. It has been made by the chief executive of the administration, which launched an offensive of unprecedented scale against the right and liberties of the U.S. citizens. Over the past sixty years the powers of the U.S. secret services have been considerably broadened, now they actually perform the functions of an "ideas police".

Since their coming to power, the "Reagan team" have been pursuing a policy of a cruel suppression of the black Americans' constitutional rights. Laws won by many years of grim struggle for civil rights are flouted in courts. Ultra-rightist and racist groupings are thriving with official Washington's tacit blessing.

The White House is crudely flouting the basic norms of international law in its foreign policy. According to the estimates of the Washington-based Brookings Institution, over the past six years the Washington administration has resorted to armed actions against other states or threatened the use of forces against them on 38 occasions. Still fresh in the memory are events of October 1983 when the USA launched an armed aggression against Grenada. Residential neighbourhoods in Libya's cities became a target of brutal bombing attacks by the U.S. Air Force a little more than a year ago. Gangs of U.S. mercenaries nurtured and guided by the CIA are sowing death and destruction in Nicaragua. The list of these crimes could be continued. Yet this is hardly necessary, since the Irangate scandal which, as before, is rocking Washington, is graphic evidence that the current U.S. Administration does not honour laws and displays no wish to observe them in practice.

BEIJING REVIEW DENIES POWER STRUGGLE IN PRC

OW272151 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] BEIJING REVIEW refutes reports on struggle between reformists and conservatives within the Chinese leadership. The weekly magazine pointed out: There is no social foundation in China for waging factionalist struggles. Workers, peasants, and intellectuals in China share the same interests, unlike those in the capitalist world.

SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON BORDER TRADE WITH PRC

OW271331 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Not long ago a delegation of the All-USSR Far East Foreign Trade Company visited the PRC. This company is a regional organization for foreign trade through which 13 border districts and areas in Siberia and Far East maintain ties with neighboring countries. During its visit, the delegation signed contract with foreign trade organizations in Heilongjiang and Nei Monggol Autonomous Region. In an interview with our station reporter, (Rozovoy), general manager of the All-USSR Far East Foreign Trade Company and head of the delegation, said: As soon as we arrived in Beijing, Director Liu of the First Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade received us. Director Liu said: China attaches great importance to developing border trade. He said: The inhabitants of China's border provinces are quite familiar with Soviet merchandise, and speak highly of Soviet products.

(RoZovoy) said: Our border trade resumed 5 years ago, after a prolonged interruption. Volume of trade in the first year after the resumption of trade was 6.3 million rubles, and reached 30 million rubles 4 years later. Both sides are pleased with the continuous development of trade along the border.

He continued: Later our trade delegation left Beijing for Nei Monggol Autonomous Region. We held talks in Huhehot and signed agreements. The USSR will export sedans, chemical fertilizer, lumber, soda ash, cement, and other goods to China, while we will import knitwear, hot-water bottles, children's articles, rubber shoes, and food from Nei Monggol Autonomous Region. Our trade company also signed an agreement with a Heilongjiang foreign trade organization to exchange goods worth 8 million rubles. during the talks, we also discussed issues on starting regular flights between Harbin and Khabarovsk and between Urumqi and Alma-Ata in the near future. These flights will further promote the ties in the border region. Both sides agreed to continue discussing border trade.

He added: We expect to receive a delegation from Heilongjiang Province in Nakhodka between the end of June and the beginning of July. At the end of this month, a foreign trade organization in Nei Monggol Autonomous Region will send a delegation to the USSR. I think that we will review our cooperation in the past and try to solve problems that we have not been able to solve in the past. We will strive to further promote border trade. Trade on the basis of mutual benefit is conducive to developing the economy of both countries.

'DEVELOPING' PRC-U.S. MILITARY TIES VIEWED

OW262021 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0300 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Military ties between China and the United States are developing. According to a XINHUA report, Zhang Xusan, deputy naval commander of the People's Liberation Army, gave a banquet in Beijing for a U.S. military delegation led by Admiral Thunman, chief of the Education and Training Command of the U.S. Navy. Meanwhile, Wang Hai, China's Air Force commander, continued his visit to the United States. He had already met with the representative of the U.S. Air Force headquarters, and visited some military installations and several military academies. The Chinese military delegation will conclude its visit to the United States on 30 April.

U.S. SAID 'CONTINUING TO PUSH TWO-CHINA POLICY'

OW140746 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0600 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Station observer commentary: "Continuing To Push the Two-China Policy"]

[Text] Listeners, eight years ago, on 10 April 1979, then U.S. President Carter signed Decree No. 2479, thus affirming the exceptional nature of U.S.-Taiwan relations on a long-term basis. Our observer points out:

When the United States established normal relations with the PRC, it formally admitted there existed only one China and that Taiwan was a part of China. The United States also declared that it had no intention of pushing a two-China policy. However, all these are only words. Actually, the United States has been sabotaging the PRC's sovereign rights all along, as can be seen in its relations with China's island, Taiwan Province.

The promulgation of Decree No. 2479, which is the new "Taiwan Relations Act," signified that the U.S. ruling clique itself completed the judicial formalities for interfering with the PRC's internal affairs. The U.S. authorities have provided the Taipei regime with so-called "protection" of every description, including commitments, the offering of arms and fighting skills, and even the commitment to protect Taiwan. This is precisely the reason the Taipei regime, which relies on U.S. support, has ignored or rejected all proposals made by the PRC on peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question.

The United States had continued to develop widespread economic ties with Taiwan. It has also supported Taiwan in the military field. U.S.-Taiwan trade volume has greatly exceeded U.S.-China trade volume. Suffice it to say that the U.S. ruling clique, ignoring the PRC's protests, has supplied Taiwan with high-level modern arms just as in the past. Supported by the United States, the Taiwan authorities are also carrying out their own military plan, including production of the latest guided missiles and the latest jet fighters with advanced flying capacity. They have also expanded the military bases built on the island when it was occupied by the United States.

Just as in the past, political ties between the United States and Taiwan have also actively developed. Various delegations have arrived in Taiwan from Washington for visits, including delegations of senators, congressmen, and government officials. As if this were not enough, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution concerning Taiwan's future -- that is, a resolution involving matters that are purely China's internal affairs. There is also evidence that the United States has pressured countries into maintaining ties with Taiwan instead of the PRC. For instance, not long ago a member of the Panamanian Legislative Parliamentary Delegation, (Lunge Ni Gelo), pointed this out at a news conference in Beijing. This is exactly as Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Qian Qichen justly pointed out at a news conference in Beijing on 3 April this year: The U.S. statement denying its involvement or obstruction to China's effort to settle the Taiwan issue is not true.

MOSCOW MANDARIN ON U.S.-JAPANESE 'THREAT' TO PRC

OW271333 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0600 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Ruben commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Chinese listeners: The so-called U.S.-Japan Security Treaty took effect 35 years ago, on 28 April 1952. In 1960 the treaty was revised, and it has been in effect until now. Station observer Ruben writes as follows on this subject.

The so-called U.S.-Japan Security Treaty was the product of the extensive cold war the Truman administration of the United States launched at that time against the socialist countries. The treaty's significance and implications are obvious when we look at other similar steps taken by the U.S. imperialists since the early 1950's. [passage omitted]

The U.S.-Japan Security Treaty serves as a link in the U.S. global anticommunist military strategy. The United States considers it of utmost importance to be able to use Japan to station its military bases in the Pacific, and turn Japan into a major military ally of the United States in the Far East. [passage omitted]

It is crystal clear that the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty poses an increasing threat to the peoples of Asian countries, including China. China's territory falls within the range of impact of this treaty. Asians have been alarmed by the fact that in Japan, those forces that espouse the revival of an imperialist Japan have been more active than ever.

Peace in Asia, as in other parts of the world, can be achieved not through confrontation, but through the common efforts of all Asian countries to pave the way for peace, equality, and mutually-beneficial cooperation, and provide a reliable guarantee for Asian-Pacific security.

U.S. ARMY PACIFIC COMMAND 'DANGEROUS' TO JAPAN

OW170603 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Kalinin commentary]

[Text] A few days ago, Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN carried a report on the U.S. Army's reorganizing a number of its divisions, for example the 25th Division, into light infantry divisions, and stated that the reorganization would have a direct effect on Japan's interests. In this regard, Radio Moscow military observer Kalinin writes as follows:

One purpose of the U.S. Army's current extensive modernization program is to carry out the so-called Division 86 reorganization project. According to the U.S. Army Headquarters, one feature of the reorganization is, first to posess, high offensive capability and mobility. Taking precisely these demands into consideration, special light infantry divisions are created so that they can be rapidly deployed to any part of the world.

What then, people may ask, does this U.S. Army reorganization plan have to do with Japan? As a matter of fact, it does have a direct connection with Japan. As light infantry divisions are not equipped with heavy weapons such as tanks, the Pentagon, the U.S. Department of Defense, plans to have these heavy weapons stockpiled abroad to enhance their combat capability. In other words, armories will be established in the regions where these light infantry divisions will most likely be deployed. This plan has aroused SANKEI SHIMBUN's concern.

SANKEI SHIMBUN is worried because the 25th Division, stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, has been reorganized into a light infantry division. According to the SANKEI SHIMBUN, this division is stationed in Hawaii in preparation for deployment to Japan. SANKEI SHIMBUN's concern is certainly not groundless. In fact, the 25th Division has frequently participated in exercises in Japan. It is also necessary to remind every one that the United States has long been demanding that Japan provide land for establishing armories to stockpile heavy weapons.

As confirmed by the Foreign Ministry source at the 1985 Diet session, the United States has already started a strategic arms armory project at the U.S. Forces base in Sagamihara. The United States wants to have similar armories in Hokkaido. In this regard, it is quite possible the 25th Division will be deployed in Japan in a so-called emergency. Nevertheless, the deployment will certainly not be limited to this division. Apparently, the United States aims at using-Japanese territory for deploying far larger ground formations.

All things considered, the Pentagon plans to carry out deployment in accordance with its concept of double-equipment divisions, which has been carried out in Western Europe. Based on this concept, double equipment scale of heavy and combat armaments are prepared for the U.S. divisions expected to be deployed abroad. In other words, the equipment will be stored both at the place where the division is stationed in the United States and in the country where the division is expected to be deployed.

The U.S. Army forces in Japan currently has its corps headquarters there but it does not have any actual combat forces. The corps, however, has several divisions.

It is precisely for the rapid deployment of the corps that the Pentagon has attempted to establish strategic armories for heavy weapons in Japan. The recent creation of the U.S. Army Pacific Command will certainly promote the Pentagon's far-reaching program.

The command has been created to replace the former Western Command which had, under its command, the U.S. Army units stationed on the Hawaiian Islands. U.S. Army Headquarters in Japan, which had existed independently, has also been put under command of the U.S. Army Pacific Command. A command similar to the U.S. Army European Command has actually been created. While a large part of the U.S. Army stationed abroad is concentrated in Europe, only 2,400 personnel are stationed in Japan. Naturally, it can be concluded that the U.S. Army Pacific Command is created with the expectation of strengthening the U.S. Army in this region.

Incidentally, in reporting the reorganization of the U.S. Army in the Pacific region, MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported the plan for the U.S. Army reinforcement in the Pacific region, quoting the Japanese Defense Agency source.

All this attests to the fact that the U.S. Army reform affects Japan's interests. The Pentagon's attempt to turn the Japanese Archipelago into the front line of the U.S. Army deployment is extremely dangerous by its nature. It is also apparent that, in the U.S. plans, Japan has been assigned the role of springboard for the operations to oppress national liberation movements in various Asian countries. All things considered, the Reagan clique does not want to abandon its role of so-called international marshal to establish order in various Asian countries where politics not pleasing to Washington have been pursued.

It is most apparent that Japan's involvement in this U.S. program may have the danger of intensifying its conflicts with the nonaligned countries in Asia. Such concessions to the United States may provoke a serious outcome for Japan and the situation in Asia as a whole.

JAPAN'S ARMS SPENDING TO 'COMPLY WITH PENTAGON'

OW230815 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 22 Apr 87

[PRAVDA Tokyo Correspondent Latyshev report]

[Text] With the intensification of trade friction between Japan and the United States, tension is growing in Japan-U.S. relations. With Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to the United States getting closer, the Japanese Government has apparently been looking for ways to defuse the tension. Both political circles and military authorities in the United States have long been demanding Japan increase its military spending, and leaders of Japanese diplomatic circles hold that one of the ways to improve the current situation in Japan-U.S. relations is to positively indicate Japan's position that it will comply with the demand for a large-scale increase in military spending.

THE DAILY YOMIURI reports that with the development of advanced weapons, Japan's military budget for fiscal 1988 is expected to exceed the one-percent-of-GNP level by a large margin. The draft military budget -- worked out through consultations with the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] headquarters -- recommends that the Maritime Self-Defense Force be equipped with Aegis vessels, which are capable of carrying missiles.

The combat capability of one Aegis vessel is said to be 10 times that of the [words indistinct]-class Japanese vessels currently deployed. There is also a plan to equip the Air Self-Defense Force with 100 FSX fighter-bombers to replace the existing F-1 fighters. Total spending on these aircraft alone will amount to one trillion yen. Furthermore, under the above-mentioned draft budget, the Ground Self-Defense Force [GSDF] headquarters plans to deploy several battalions equipped with new SSM-1 ground-to-ship missiles in Hokkaido. The deployment of one such battalion equipped with SSM-1 missiles will approximately cost 23 billion yen.

THE DAILY YOMIURI reports that the Defense Agency plans to equip all GSDF divisions with armored vehicles that can be used in both chemical and nuclear warfare.

This is the new plan worked out by SDF leaders. With this plan the SDF leaders are trying to help Prime Minister Nakasone, who is to begin difficult negotiations in Washington in late April. Thus, while making such respectable remarks as contributing to the solution of the trade war with the United States, the SDF leaders have led the Japanese Government into intensifying the arms race. This may comply with the Pentagon's as well as Japanese militarists' demands, but the policy fundamentally runs counter to the Japanese people's interests and to their longing for peace.

IZVESTIYA CITES KYODO ON 'SOVIET THREAT'

PM271025 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Unnamed Correspondent under the "Rejoinder" rubric: "Aimed at Simpletons"]

[Text] Tokyo -- KYODO reported recently that the Japanese National Defense Agency intends to supply the ground units with a new type of equipment which has not hitherto existed -- specially equipped and supplied military trucks designed for operations in zones contaminated by chemical weapons and radio activity.

Yet again the Japanese generals' undertaking is justified by fear of "the Soviet threat." You can only marvel at how simpleminded and gullible the National Defense Agency officials consider their compatriots to be when they resort to the services of a peice of propaganda trickery concocted on the basis of U.S. models. Indeed, to judge by a report from KYODO again, all the references to the "threats" are no more than a tribute to tradition. The agency writes that in the opinion of military observers the development of the new equipment in the National Defense Agency units could lead to the point where in the future there will be talk of creating their own chemical weapons potential in the Japanese "self defense forces."

This turn of events seems to be far closer to the truth. In any event far more faith is placed in it than in the mythical "threat" from the USSR. Our country consistently advocates the banning and total abolition of chemical weapons and is prepared to conclude the broadest accords on this score. Here in Japan they are also writing in detail of the Soviet proposals in this field. But to all appearances in the National Defense Agency the information service in unequal to the task.

USSR SENDS GREETINGS ON DRA REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

PM271321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

[Congratulatory message from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, to Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Kestmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and esteemed Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council]

[Text] On behalf of the Soviet people, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers we cordially congratulate you, the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government, and all the friendly people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the national festival: the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution.

The victory of the April Revolution, under the leadership of the PDPA, has opened broad horizons before the people of Afghanistan for national growth on the basis of the principles of progress, democracy, and justice. The ideas of the national and democratic revolution have been creatively reflected in the announced program of national reconciliation which responds to the deeprooted interests of all the people of Afghanistan.

The DRA Armed Forces are observing a unilateral cease-fire, within the framework of the national reconciliation. The DRA leadership authorities have presented a proposal for the start of a constructive dialogue to form a government of national unity.

This government, on the basis of patriotism and democracy, will unite all those who sincerely link their future with an independent Afghanistan that has national sovereignty and follows a policy of nonalignment.

The Soviet Union unreservedly supports this policy and is also ready to assist its practical implementation in the future.

The peaceful foreign policy of the DRA and the constructive approach of the DRA Government to issues regarding the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan has gained broad international recognition. Meanwhile, those forces that continue their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, that try to forestall the process of national reconciliation, and gamble on war and the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan, only further expose themselves.

Since the April Revolution, Soviet-Afghan relations have been developing with constant acceleration and dynamism and new forms of multifaceted cooperation have been established.

In the future, the Soviet Union will also give comprehensive assistance to the people of Afghanistan in their constructive and peaceful endeavors.

We wish the friendly people of Afghanistan, the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government successes in progress along the path of national reconciliation, peace, and calmness in the land of Afghanistan.

[Signed] CPSU Central Committee; USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers

DRA Leaders Respond

PM281001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr Second Edition p 1

[Afghan leaders' message to Soviet leaders on 9th anniversary of April Revolution]

[Text] To Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

Comrade A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

Dear Comrades!

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government, the Afghan people, and ourselves personally we express sincere gratitude for the warm congratulations and good wishes on the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution.

The Afghan people and the PDPA are greeting this great holiday in an atmosphere of struggle and creation. Our country is now at an important, crucial stage in its development. The national reconciliation policy announced at an extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee is the only reasonable alternative to the bloodshed and fratricidal war being waged against the DRA by counterrevolutionary forces with the broad support of world imperialism and regional reaction. With each passing day, this policy gains increasing support and approval among the broadest strata of Afghan society and our compatriots abroad.

We are sincerely interested in establishing peace and tranquility in our ancient land as soon as possible and we intend to go a long way for the sake of this noble aim -- as far as forming a coalition government which could incorporate representatives of influential opposition political forces concerned for the fate of Afghanistan.

The course of normalizing the situation inside Afghanistan is indissolubly connected with efforts for the speediest political settlement of the situation surrounding it. We believe and hope that the goodwill and determination of all interested sides will make it possible to achieve mutual understanding and final accords in the near future.

The PDPA, the DRA Government, and the entire Afghan people are deeply grateful to the great Soviet people, the CPSU Central Committee, and the Soviet Government for their vast assistance and support for revolutionary Afghanistan in its struggle for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, peace, and a better future. We totally approve and resolutely support all the Soviet land's constructive foreign policy initiatives aimed at ensuring peace, stability, and security on our planet, including on the Asian Continent. We firmly believe that the inviolable friendship, fraternal solidarity, and fruitful cooperation between our countries and peoples will strengthen and develop forever.

We wish you, dear comrades, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet Government, and the heroic Soviet people outstanding new achievements in implementing the goals and tasks determined by the historic 27th CPSU Congress.

[Signed] Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee
S.A. Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers
H.M. Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council

YERMIN ATTENDS KABUL NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

LD272229 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by correspondent Leschinskiy on celebrations in Kabul on 9th anniversary of the April Revolution]

[Text] [Announcer] The Afghan people are marking their national day today, the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution.

[Begin Leschinskiy video recording] On the stands are DRA leaders, representatives of the clergy, public figures, heads of diplomatic missions, and foreign guests, among them a delegation from the Supreme Soviet headed by Comrade Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Here is the traditional festive ceremony of the military parade. Taking part are regular combat units of the Afghan Army, units which, in the new conditions, have a special role to play -- that of preserving their composure and vigilance in the unilateral cease-fire. At the same time, the Armed Forces are successfully performing their tasks of destroying large armed formations that are continuing to do the bidding of the irreconcilable ringleaders of counterrevolution.

Residents of Kabul and representatives of many of the country's provinces are taking part in the festive parade. The ranks of this parade today include people who only a year ago were hiding in the hills and preparing sabotage and acts of terrorism for this day. The words of the slogans and banners are addressed to those who have still not heard the peaceful appeals of the homeland. The banners discuss halting the war and working for the sake of a better life and for national unity. [end recording]

DRA REBELS' ACTIVITIES, U.S. TIES VIEWED

LD271740 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS -- TASS commentator Valeriy Vavilov writes:

Ravaged by the long fratricidal war Afghanistan needs peace and stability. But this apparently is not included in Washington's plans which, as its actions show, would want to procrastinate the bloodshed endlessly and retain thereby a seat of armed conflict in that region -- near the borders with India and on the southern approaches to the Soviet Union.

This is evidenced by facts. The American Administration earmarked 630 million dollars to aid the counter-revolutionary bands during the current fiscal year. The bandit formations are being provided with the latest armaments. They were supplied even 600 Stinger ground-to-air rockets, including of those models which even American troops do not yet have.

American instructors are busy drilling counter-revolutionaries at training centres on the territory of Pakistan and the bandits are operating -- opening fire at towns and villages, engaging in arson and sabotage, shooting down civilian aircraft and trying by means of vicious terror and savagery to intimidate those who support Kabul's call for national reconciliation, for an end to the fratricidal war. The United States is banking on cruelty, on fear. That is why when choosing from among Afghan renegades those who will serve as instruments of its policy Washington decided on those who have proved by long service their loyalty to their American master. Among them is Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of "Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan", one of the seven counter-revolutionary groups entrenched in Pakistan which rejected Kabul's proposal to cease fire, open talks and create a coalition government of national accord.

This pretender to leadership in a future Afghanistan is described by THE NEW YORK TIMES as a cunning man who loves plots. He became linked with the American CIA already late in the 1960's. He fled to Pakistan in 1973 long before the April Revolution. Two years later, in 1975, with the help of Pakistani special services Golboddin Hekmatyar tried to engineer an uprising of tribes against the Da'ud government in Afghanistan and in 1979, as the press writes, drew up with the CIA's assistance the scenario of state coup, which, if successful, would have made him top contender for the post of premier. It is his dream to "ride on a white horse" into the former residence of the Afghan kings. But meantime in addition to crimes on Afghan soil he engages in making money on the suffering of the Afghan people by shamelessly pocketing financial and material assistance intended for Afghan refugees. According to press reports, in 1981 alone he grabbed most of the 300,000 dollars that were transferred by an American committee of aid for Afghan refugees and put the loot on his account in a Swiss bank. Neither is he above taking part in the drug trade, supplying heroin to markets in Europe and America. It should be recalled that a third of the drugs used in the United States reach the American market from Pakistan.

No less "colourful" is another leader of the Afghan counter-revolution, Borhanoddin Rabani. He is the head of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan". It was already during Da'ud's rule that Rabani banded together reactionary forces and staged pogroms of dissidents. This "champion" of democracy and freedom, as the Americans describe him, is notorious for his extreme cruelty. As reported by THE WASHINGTON POST, Rabani himself admits that terror is his favourite weapon. So they have struggled and are struggling against any governments, both past and the present one, striving to establish their own power -- the power of counter-revolution. Some 600,000 Afghans have become victims of the terror by these and other such counter-revolutionaries in the years of the undeclared war. The counter-revolutionaries have destroyed or burned down 1,830 schools, more than 130 hospitals and more than 300 mosques, they have destroyed two thirds of communication lines, hundreds of bridges. In fact the direct damage inflicted by them exceeds 50 billion afghani.

On rejecting the call for national reconciliation the leaders of the counter-revolutionary "seven" in Peshawar have stepped up terror against refugees and prevent them from returning home. With the assistance of the Pakistani military command the counter-revolutionaries have established their rigid armed control over 255 Afghan refugee camps: The camps are surrounded by cordons of counter-revolutionaries and Pakistani troops.

But neither the criminal actions of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries nor the intrigues of their American and other instigators will break the Afghan people's resolve to build a peaceful, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan. Washington, its allies in Pakistan and their ilk from among the counter-revolutionary leaders should ponder this because responsibility for the crimes against the Afghan people will inevitably rest with them.

AFGHAN 'BANDIT' RAID ON BORDER GUARDS DESCRIBED

PM241525 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Special correspondents A. Karpov and D. Meshchaninov report under the rubric "On the Spot Report": "On the Border; Soviet Servicemen Engage in Battle with a Dushman Gang"]

[Text] A. Karpov reports from Tajikistan [subhead]

The helicopter was carefully picking its way along the mountain gorge. The steep brown cliffs towering to either side, majestic in their austere beauty, threatened to merge into an impenetrable wall and block further progress. It seemed there was no end to this gloomy corridor.

Then suddenly the metal bird broke out of its stone prison into the valley. Gentle slopes covered in luscious spring grass descended down to the Pyandzh, a swift-running icy stream. Peace and tranquillity reigned that April morning.

However, do not be deceived. This is the border. The cool winding Pyandzh separates two states. Its left bank is in Afghanistan, the right bank is ours, Soviet.

"We have arrived," the officer who was accompanying us said. "This is where it happened."

The village on the Afghan side nestling at the foot of the mountains is called Punimur. Cut off from provincial centers, located away from caravan routes, it has frequently served as a refuge for dushman gangs. Every time they came here they behaved as if they owned the place. They fleeced the population. Good-neighborliness and mutual understanding have always been the rule in relations with the legitimate authorities of the DRA and its working people. But only with them...

On 8 April it had been raining since the morning. Toward the evening the rain became even heavier. It was as if the weather was in league with the bandits. They crossed the Pyandzh on rafts in groups of 20-25 people. They decided to attack from two sides, from below and from above the Soviet border post. Another group took up position on an island in the middle of the stream to give cover. The bad weather helped the dushmans to maneuver without being heard. They installed grenade launchers and machineguns on the surrounding hills. As Mamad Ayaz, son of Ashur Mamad, one of the attackers who was captured, was to tell us the following day, they banked on superiority in numbers, the surprise nature of the attack, and brazenness. However, their calculations did not work out.

...The events of that night on this sector of the Soviet-Afghan border are described in detail and with military precision in the battle report.

Private A.P. Kurkin was on sentry duty. With extremely bad visibility he discovered the concealed approach of a dushman gang that had invaded Soviet territory. He gave the order: "To arms!" And opened fire. At point-blank range he killed two bandits just as they were getting ready to throw grenades into our detail. Twice wounded, he changed position, and fought on...

"Drawing fire to himself he made it possible for his comrades to carry out a maneuver."

His third wound was fatal...

"Private A.S. Artamanov detected the approach of three bandits. He allowed the first to come within 5 meters and killed him. Then he swiftly changed position and killed the remaining two... With his fire he forced an enemy machine gun detail to give up an advantageous position..."

Thus the bandits' plan was thwarted within minutes. However, the border guards too were in a difficult situation. The dushman fire had damaged the radio. Thus it was impossible to report what was happening or to call up reinforcements. The rain made it impossible to hope for help from the air. There was nothing left but to fight to the end with the forces that were available.

The forces were unequal. That rainy April night demanded determination, courage, and a cold-bloodedness from our servicemen. They fulfilled their duty. In the path of an atacking dushman group, covering the flank was Private Ramil Yamilov. [paragraph continues]

Fatally wounded he did not leave his post. His fire deprived the attackers of initiative and forced them to switch from the offensive to the defensive.

The bullet marks on the rocks where the border guards' were firing illustrate the frenzy with which the dushmans were attacking. However, the bandits could not stand up to the counterattack, they flinched. Leaving their dead and wounded on the wet grass, they began to retreat. Two hours later they were repulsed beyond the river.

The brazenness of the bandit attack was unprecedented. It is quite obvious who needed this provocation and why. The leaders of the counterrevolutionary centers are ready to stop at nothing in order to create an atmosphere of tension and anti-Sovietism in Afghan border areas. And so, Mr Ahmad and Nur Ali, ringleaders of dushman gangs which are part of the formation headed by Bashir, decided to mount a bandit operation to demonstrate the vulnerability of the Soviet border. Their plan did not work out. The attack turned into a disgraceful fiasco for them.

D. Meshchaninov Reports from Kabul [subhead]

The attack on the Soviet border post was carried out by detachments from the formation of a certain "engineer" Bashir who operates in Takhar province bordering on the Soviet Union. He has bestowed the title "engineer" on himself because he studied at Kabul University at one time although he never made it beyond the first year. Shortly after the April Revolution, Bashir, the son of a rich landowner, fled to Pakistan and on returning rom there led an armed group. A few years later he went back to Pakistan again where he completed a 1-year course for killers and saboteurs run by instructors from Western special services.

By his bloodthirsty evil deeds against representatives of the DRA people's power and the civilian population, Bashir won the special favor of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the leader of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" who has entrenched himself in the Pakistani city of Peshawar and who, with the blessing of his transatlantic patrons, is masterminding the activity of his cutthroats on Afghan territory. At present Bashir has under his command all the groups of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan operating in Takhar Province which form part of the so-called Islamic border regiment.

"The bandits stop at nothing," Sarandoy [militia] Captain Mohammad Ewaz told us. "They plunder and burn trucks on the roads, shell villages, kill old folk, women, and children, and rob traders on the caravan routes. As for the provocation on the Afghan-Soviet border, the testimonies of the captured dushmans indicate unequivocally that the order came from Peshawar. Something else is also quite obvious -- the crime was committed on the instructions of the people who are doing their utmost to prevent a normalization of the situation around Afghanistan, the people who are holding forth about their desire to contribute to the establishment of "peace in the region," but who in reality supply the dushmans with money and the most modern weapons to continue the bloodshed.

I met one of those who directly participated in the attack on the Soviet border post. His name is Mohammad Ayaz.

"A few hours before we crossed the border," he related, "Mir Ahmad, the commander of our group consisting of 40 people, announced that an order had been received to cross over to the Soviet side and eliminate the border guards. The second group consisting of 20 people was headed by Nur Ali. We crossed the Pyandzh river on rafts and waterskins. We are confident that under cover of night and dense fog we would be able to surround the border post without difficult, occupy the commanding heights, and then shower the borderguards with mortars and grenades. [paragraph continues]

Visibility was down to a few meters. It was raining. Suddenly we heard a burst of machine gun fire and saw a flare go up. The battle lasted 2 hours. We suffered great losses. We began to retreat toward the river. I was wounded near the boulders on the bank. It is not a serious wound but I was unable to run with the others. I shouted to them to help me but they were all saving their own skins...."

His fate, like the fate of other bandits captured during the operation to rout dushman formations mounted in recent days in Takhar Province will be decided by a court. No one will escape severe punishment for crimes against the civilian population, for the attempt to violate our country's sacred border, for the action that was conceived in Pakistan rather than on Afghan soil.

PAKISTAN SEEKS AWACS IN RETURN FOR DRA REBEL AID

LD271524 Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 27 TASS -- President Reagan has received a secret letter from Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo proposing to help intensify terrorist sorties by Afghan counter-revolutionaries, the newspaper WASHINGTON POST said today. In exchange, the newspaper notes, Islamabad is seeking immediate supply of AWACS aircraft, failing which it threatens that aid to the Afghan rebels will run short.

The letter delivered by Senator Gordon Humphrey, who visited the DRA and then Pakistan, contains a formula of the terms of the deal: If AWACS planes are immediately sold or let on lease to Pakistan, the rebels will be appropriately trained to launch rocket strikes against Kabul. The letter says with cynical openness that the point at issue are above all the areas inhabited by Soviet civilian specialists.

Noteworthy is not only the provocative character of the letter from the Pakistani premier, but also the role, which was played in all that by the above-mentioned American Republican senator. He and members of his office visited Kabul and, as THE WASHINGTON POST noted, saw in particular the houses in which Soviet civilian representatives live... The conclusion drawn by the overseas visitors was a truly human-hating one -- these houses, they believe, should be rocketed. The senator even photographed the housing complexes, separate houses and shops as targets for such strikes. The Americans, the newspaper said, showed these photographs to General Ziaul Haq.

The oppressive Islamabad regime willingly grasped at the idea of toughening terror in Afghanistan. According to the newspaper WASHINGTON POST the Pakistani authorities are concerned about the recently more active declarations in the USA including in the U.S. Congress against military aid to Pakistan, since there is convincing evidence of the militaristic character of its nuclear programme.

GROMYKO RECEIVES NEW SRV ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS

LD272238 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Nguyen Manh Cam, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, paid a visit to the Kremlin and presented his credentials to Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko.

The ambassador conveyed to Comrade Gromyko, and through him to the Soviet leaders and to Comrade Gorbachev, sincere good feelings and best wishes from the Vietnamese leaders and Comrade Nguyen Van Linh.

Accepting the credentials, Comrade Gromyko declared that the relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam have already stood the test of time well. This idea is especially applicable to the period when fraternal Vietnam was conducting the self-sacrificing struggle against the U.S. aggressors. It displayed marvels of heroism and selflessness and achieved victory. Comrade Gromyko especially emphasized the significance of the relations that have come into being between the leadership of the CPSU and the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, One can say, declared Comrade Gromyko, that close cooperation and exchange of opinions between them have already been in practice for along time, not only on questions of bilateral relations but also on international problems with due consideration of the specific situation in the Asian and Pacific region. An exceptionally effective way of exchanging views and agreeing on appropriate positions are the visits to Vietnam by Soviet party and state figures, as well as the visits to the Soviet Union by Vietnamese party and state figures.

A warm, friendly conversation then took place between Comrades Gromyko and Nguyen Manh Cam.

PRAVDA CITIES NGUYEN VAN LINH ON PARTY'S ROLE

PM271001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Reliable Guarantee"]

[Text] Hanoi, 16 Apr -- The renewal of thinking and the style of work are a very important task for the party and entire people at the present stage of socialist building in the SRV, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, has stated. In an interview with a French journalist he stated that the sixth CPV Congress emphasized the importance of the past years' achievements and outlined ways of overcoming existing difficulties. The measures taken at the party's initiative to expand criticism and develop the democratization process have promoted the mobilization of its intellectual forces and the consolidation of the unity of the CPV's ranks and made a substantial contribution to the successful holding of the party forum.

We must overcome oversimplified ideas about socialism, the Vietnamese leader said. The party has steered a course toward resolutely eliminating bureaucracy and voluntarism in economic management. "More attention must be paid to the objective natural laws of socialist building. We embarked on it with a backward material and technical base, bypassing the capitalist stage of development. [paragraph continues]

That is why we must learn to make bold use of the potential of all economic structures in the country, including the private and individual structures. But this in no way signifies the restoration of elements of capitalist exploitation. The leading role will always belong to the socialist sector of the economy.

Nguyen Van Linh highly assessed the unvarying aid and support rendered to Vietnam by the Soviet Union for over 40 years. In recent years, he said, Soviet aid to the Indochinese countries has increased considerably. The USSR is a reliable bulwark of the cause of peace and independence throughout the world.

The CPV Central Committee general secretary expressed himself in favor of restoring normal relations between the SRV and the PRC. This accords with the fundamental interests of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples. Vietnam will do everything possible for such a settlement. Concerning the situation surrounding Cambodia, Vietnam is prepared to immediately withdraw its troops from the People's Republic of Kampuchea as soon as China ceases to support the criminal Pol Pot grouping. The renunciation of this aid would help the solution of the Cambodian problem by the Cambodian people themselves.

SRV LEADER WRITES ON HOLDING TALKS WITH PRC

OW272049 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The Vietnamese Government and people are willing to hold talks with China at any time, at any level, and in any place on the basis of equality and mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty to settle questions concerning the Vietnamese-Chinese relationship, normalize relations, and restore friendship between the two countries. This remark was made by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnam Workers' Party Central Committee in an article he wrote for the May issue of Issues on Peace and Socialism magazine. The article emphatically pointed out: Vietnam is continuously striving to develop friendship and cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, and striving to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and cooperation.

INDONESIAN ELECTION OUTCOME 'FOREGONE CONCLUSION'

OW262057 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0015 GMT 24 Apr 87

[From the Novosti newscast; Viktor Konnov commentary]

[Text] Hello comrades. Early in the morning, 94 million eligible Indonesian voters went to the voting booths to elect 400 deputies to the House of Representatives -- the parliament of Indonesia.

Three political groups have put candidates forward -- the ruling Golkar Party; the United Development Party, and the Indonesia Democracy Party. In addition, 100 members of the parliament will be appointed by the country's president and selected from the military. In the opinion of observers, Golkar, which had 246 seats in the present parliament, will be able to preserve its dominant role.

The election results in Indonesia are a foregone conclusion due to a whole series of circumstances. The army, composed of approximately 170 million, has, for many years, played the role of a leading political force. On the eve of the present elections, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces reported to President Suharto that the army is prepared to supervise the process of the preelection campaign. The two opposition parties have been weakened by [word indistinct] and internal strife. Even if they did win a majority in the parliament, nothing would ensure their participation in the running of the country. The opportuinties of parliament to control the activities of the government are minimal. The cabinet is responsible only to the president.

However, depsite the inevitability of the outcome, the elections in Indonesia are, as a rule, taken seriously and at times lead to civil clashes. Apparently this happens because the elections are seen by the ordinary voter as the only possible means -- even if for only a short period of time -- to take part in politics and express his opinions on the situation in the country.

GRENADE ATTACK ON U.S. ADVISERS IN PHILIPPINES

LD272136 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Manila April 27 TASS -- Unidentified people who were passing by in a car threw several grenades today at the headquarters of a group of U.S. military advisers in the Philippines and blasted it with submachine-gun fire. The headquarters is situated in Quezon City, in the area of greater Manila. According to preliminary information, there was no loss of life. The building was damaged. The authorities started an investigation.

LIGACHEV VISIT TO HUNGARIAN ENTERPRISES VIEWED

PM271500 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings on Hungarian Soil"]

[Text] Budapest, 24 Apr -- Today Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is in Hungary on a working visit, familiarized himself with various aspects of the economic and social life of socialist Hungary and the work of the capital's party organization.

He visited Budapest City Party Committee. K. Grosz, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Budapest City MSZMP Committee, and other leaders of the capital's party organization spoke of Budapest's development prospects, the participation of communists and all the city's working people in the implementation of the 13th BCP Congress decisions, and the deepening of bilateral links with Moscow. It was noted that during these days the Budapest communists are paying particular attention to the resolution of economic tasks and channeling their efforts into increasing production efficiency and the quality of goods and making rational use of raw materials and energy. The capital's labor collectives are actively involved in the production competition launched in honor of the approaching 70th anniversary of Great October.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee met with workers from the first joint Soviet-Hungarian enterprise, Mikromed, set up in the city of Esztergom by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Medical Instrument Making and the Hungarian state firm Medikor. It specializes in the production and sale of modern articles of medical equipment using the latest achievements of microelectronics.

There was a warm conversation with representatives of the international collective. Its leaders spoke of the enterprise's important work, reporting that in the next 5 years it will produce around 100 different types of medical equipment, including universal instruments for the study of cardiovascular and neuromuscular activity. Mikromed's main criterion will be the profitability of output and the production of products which meet the highest technical parameters.

The guest from the USSR stressed the highly promising nature of the fraternal countries' cooperation, which is aimed at the accelerated introduction of the achievements of science and technology within the framework of the comprehensive program of the CEMA member countries. The creation of Mikromed, Ye.K. Ligachev said, is a graphic example of the pooling of the creative potential of scientists and specialists from the two countries for the sake of successfully tackling scientific and technical tasks. The work you have begun is of exceptional importance. You are pioneers in the general strategic direction of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation, you have opened up new ways of expanding economic, scientific, and technical ties between the USSR and Hungary. We will try in every way to ensure that this supreme form of mutual cooperation, which is of great economic and political significance, becomes widespread in medical equipment and other sectors and that Mikromed's output meets the demands of world standards and surpasses them.

In Komarom Megye Ye.K. Ligachev visited the "New Life" agricultural cooperative. This multisector farm has achieved major successes in the development of agricultural production. As the cooperative leaders reported, last year, a difficult year for weather conditions, the wheat yield here was 44 quintals per hectare, and the corn yield was 57 quintals. Over a number of years the farm has obtained stable crops of grain and other crops.

The Soviet guest inspected the cooperative's livestock units and the farmstead plot of one of the cooperative workers. In conversations he inquired about the farm's sources of income, the high indicators in crop farming and livestock raising, the setting of purchase prices, and labor productivity.

Ye.K. Ligachev and the Hungarian agricultural leaders noted the opportunities and reserves for expanding cooperation, including the establishment of direct production ties. The importance of setting up joint centers for the selection of corn hybrids and techniques for their cultivation was stressed.

When leaving the cooperative workers, the Soviet guest wished them new successes in increasing the production of agricultural produce and fulfilling the decisions of the Hungarian communists' 13th congress.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee visited Szentendre City, which is rich in historical cultural monuments, and inspected the exhibition at one of the museums.

Ye.K. Ligachev was accompanied on his trip by F. Havasi, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee.

RAZUMOVSKIY MEETS WITH SED'S MUELLER 14 APRIL

PM160929 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] Under the plan for CPSU-SED interparty ties, F. Mueller, member of the SED Central Committee and chief of the SED Central Committee Cadre Section, visited Moscow 13-14 April. He familiarized himself with the CPSU's experience in improving the party political education of party cadres. He had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section and the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences.

G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received F. Mueller 14 April. GDR ambassador G. Koenig participated in the warm and friendly talks.

SED'S HAGER DISCUSSES RESTRUCTURING RESPONSIBILITY

PM160849 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Second Edition p 6

[Dispatch by unnamed own correspondent: "'...To Learn From Each Other'"]

[Text] Berlin, 14 Apr -- NEUES DEUTSCHLAND has published an interview which Kurt Hager, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, granted to the West German magazine STERN. Answering questions on the current restructuring in the USSR and the attitude of German Communists and GDR working people to it, K. Hager pointed out: The GDR and the USSR are allies. Strong and unbreakable friendship exists between the two states' peoples. It is expressed in direct ties between enterprises, higher educational institutions, and other establishments and also in numerous meetings between people. The SED and the CPSU are fraternal parties and regularly exchange experience in order to learn from each other. This is how it was, is, and will continue to be.

The decisions adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress and the implementation of the program to accelerate the USSR's socioeconomic development are of fundamental significance for the Soviet people's well-being, K. Hager said, and at the same time they carry decisive international weight. We have repeatedly expressed to the Soviet people and their communist party our conviction that the restructuring begun by the 27th congress and the surmounting of the unfavorable trends and difficulties which appeared in the seventies and the early eighties are aimed at fully revealing the Soviet Union's strong material and spiritual potential and, thus, at further improving and strengthening socialism.

K. Hager went on to point out that all socialist countries do, of course, learn from each other, because they have the same world outlook -- Marxism-Leninism -- and the same common goal -- socialism and communism. But each of them has a certain level of economic and social development, historical and cultural traditions, and geographic and other conditions that must be taken into consideration. Each party is responsible to its own people and acts for their good. At the same time, through its policy each party makes a contribution to the common cause of socialism, to strengthening and consolidating the socialist community. Socialism is a young social system. It is taking new paths and constantly demands a creative theoretical and practical solution to the problems which ensure its further development and improvement, particularly by utilizing the results of the scientific and technical revolution.

As our experience also demonstrates, socialism is capable of bringing to life considerable social forces and potential and of advancing more and more new working people's initiatives in order to continue the progress, K. Hager said.

CPSU'S MEDVEDEV MEETS WITH CPCZ'S BILAK, JAKES

PM151440 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting in Prague"]

[Text] Prague, 10 Apr -- A meeting took place here between V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and V. Bilak and M. Jakes, members of the Presidium and secretaries of the CPCZ Central Committee. The two sides discussed questions of ideological and economic cooperation.

HUNGARY'S KADAR CABLES GREETINGS TO GORBACHEV

LD212145 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] MZSMP General Secretary Janos Kadar has sent a telegram from his aircraft to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev which says: Overflying the territory of the Soviet Union, I send you, the CPSU, and the fraternal Soviet people best wishes.

TOLSTYKH MEETS WITH SFRY SCIENCE OFFICIAL

LD212114 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1043 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 Apr (TANJUG) -- Boris Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, today received Bozidar Matic, president of the Federal Committee for Science and Technology. Their friendly talk focused on possible ways of advancing Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation in science and technology.

ALIYEV MEETS WITH CROATIAN VISITORS 15 APRIL

PM161527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Conversation"]

[Text] On 15 April G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin A. Milovic, president of the Socialist Republic of Croatia Assembly Executive Council, who is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers.

During the conversation, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, satisfaction was expressed at the continued development of Soviet-Yugoslav relations, which were given new momentum by the talks between a CPSU delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev and an LCY delegation headed by M. Renovica. The mutual desire to further expand fruitful cooperation between the two countries in all spheres and enrich it with new content was reaffirmed.

The sides exchanged opinions on certain questions of bilateral relations. In this context reference was made to the great significance of the development of ties between the republics and krays of the USSR and the SFRY and, in particular, the Ukraine and Croatia, which are making a substantial contribution to strengthening the traditional friendship, mutual understanding, and comprehensive cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

During the discussion of international problems A. Milovic's attention was drawn to the new Soviet peace initiatives put forward by M.S Gorbachev in Prague. Reference was made to the need for all countries to step up their efforts to avert the nuclear threat, curb the arms race, and establish an all-embracing system of international peace and security.

GDR TU LEADER TISCH GIVEN SOVIET AWARD

PM021133 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 2

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree awarding the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples to Comrade Harry Tisch, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation Central Board, issued on 27 March]

[Text] It is decreed that Comrade Harry Tisch, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Central Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation be awarded the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples for his active involvement in organizing and developing cooperation between GDR and USSR trade unions and on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 27 March 1987.

W. EUROPEAN GROUP VISITS, DISCUSSES DISARMAMENT

Meets Parliamentary Officials

LD081243 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS -- A conversation was held in Moscow today at the Parliamentary Group of the USSR and its section on peace and disarmament with a delegation from the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU).

Main attention was given to European affairs.

The idea that mankind, Europe had ever less time to avert the threat of war, a threat that was being exacerbated by the arms race, tension and mistrust, was the starting point of the conversation.

The guests said that they were prepared to support talks between the USSR and the United Statees on medium-range missiles in Europe on the basis of Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of February 28, and request the governments of their countries to give this support.

The process should not be stopped at that, however. It was important to reduce gradually and then destroy other types of nuclear and non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

The Soviet participants in the conversation mentioned the Soviet position that was directed at putting an end not only to nuclear but also other types of arms and creating a reliable and comprehensive system of international security. The principal objective of Soviet policy was renunciation of force in international relations.

The dialogue was held in an atmosphere of free and open discussion. Both sides expressed the desire to more jointly along the path of building a lasting peace and look for ways to remove obstacles emerging in this way.

The conversation was attended by Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group Lev Tolkunov, Supreme Soviet Deputies Georgiy Arbatov, Valeriy Bykov, Georgiy Zhukov and Vladimir Lobov, head of department at the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces Colonel-General Nikolay Chervov and deputy head of the Department on Arms Control and Disarmament at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Konstantin Mikhaylov.

A luncheon in honour of the visiting WEU delegation was given on behalf of the Soviet parliamentary group.

'Open' Talk with Dobrynin

LD081847 Moscow TASS in English 1822 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Dobrynin today received a delegation of the assembly of Western European Union on a visit in Moscow.

The question of medium-range missiles in Europe assumed special place during a lively exchange of opinions on questions of disarmament and European security.

The attention of the members of the delegation of WEU assembly was called to specific and large-scale Soviet peace proposals aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament, at reducing conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe, at the elimination of chemical weapons. It was emphasized that the implementation of these proposals would open a prospect of consolidating security of all European countries, of establishing mutually-advantageous ties among them in every area. The Soviet Union is sincerely in favour of the further development of the European process.

It was also noted that it is only by political means that security can be ensured in the nuclear age. To continue relying on military means, on the policy of "nuclear deterrence" would mean in the long-run to court disaster.

The members of the delegation of WEU assembly declared in favour of lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe on all kinds of arms by means of appropriate talks and agreements. The known views of NATO countries which far from facilitating, actually hamper working out agreements were at the same time expressed in the statements of some of the delegates about concrete ways of achieving this aim.

The interlocutors arrived at the consensus that not only a nuclear war but even a conventional war cannot be fought in Europe since any military conflict in Europe would be equally disastrous for European peoples and their civilisation.

The problem of the Middle East settlement was touched upon in the conversation among other problems. The need for lowering tension in the Mediterranean as a whole was recognized.

Both sides declared for the further development of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the assembly of Western Euopean Union.

First deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee Georgiy Korniyenko took part in the conversation which passed in an open [Moscow TASS International Russian 081743, in an identical report, uses Russian "otkrovennoy"] and benevolent atmosphere.

DOBRYNIN MEETS SEW GROUP ON ARMS, COOPERATION

PM151307 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Meeting at CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] On 14 April A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and V.V. Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, had a meeting with a delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin [SEW] headed by party Chairman H. Schmitt. The delegation includes D. Ahrens, deputy chairman of the SEW, and H. Flichtbeil and K.D. Heiser, members of the party bureau and board secretariat.

Questions of the contemporary international situation -- above all, of limiting the arms race and strengthening cooperation to that end among fraternal communist and workers parties -- were discussed during friendly talks held in an atmosphere of full mutual understanding.

H. Schmitt and the delegation members hailed the USSR's initiatives aimed at building a nuclear-free world.

In this connection the Soviet Union's new proposals expounded in M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Prague received the West Berlin comrades' full support. Questions of the struggle to achieve these ends will occupy an important place in the work of the upcoming Eighth SEW Congress.

The SEW delegation members pointed out that the 4-power agreement of 3 September 1971 led to a substantial improvement in the situation within and around West Berlin, however there exists today a pressing need to try to ensure that the city makes a weightier contribution to strengthening the cause of peace, detente, and cooperation in Europe.

The CPSU's representatives spoke about the progress in implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions aimed at accelerating socioeconomic development and about the profound, revolutionary restructuring taking place in the country.

Both parties' intention to continue strengthening friendship and solidarity between them and to struggle for peace and progress was confirmed at the talks.

PRAVDA VIEWS FRG REACTIONS TO INF PROPOSALS

Kohl, Public Opinion Cited

PM031122 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 87 First Edition p 4

[Correspondent Yu. Yakhontov report: "Not Hiding Behind Words: Prospects for the Elimination of Medium-Range Missiles and the FRG"]

[Excerpt] Bonn, April -- [Passage omitted] The Soviet initiative received a positive assessment in the course of debates on the government statement delivered in the Bundestag by Federal Chancellor H. Kohl. (PRAVDA reported this on 19 March.) He reaffirmed his adherence to the "zero option," but it was hard to see from the federal chancellor's statement what contibution to the realization of this highly important disarmament problem could be expected from the FRG. The deputies' speeches in the debates on the government statement showed that even within the ranks of the factions of the conservative CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] bloc, there are some signs of a new, realistic mood breaking through.

But not everything is developing smoothly in the approach to disarmament and the development of a climate of confidence in Europe on the main political highway in Bonn.

For observers familiar with political life in the Rhine capital, it is no secret that in the government, in Parliament, and mainly in the local "Pentagon" there are many people -- and influential people at that -- for whom the elimination of all Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles now being planned is hard to swallow.

They know, of course, that the "zero option" on missiles was originally put forward by the United States and NATO, not without hopes that the USSR would never agree to it. Thus they hoped to make use of it for as long as they liked as an unbeatable propaganda trump card, in parallel with the spurring on of new spirals in the arms race. These "calculating" gentlemen are now having to "save face" -- which way can they turn? They must grit their teeth, as the weekly DER SPIEGEL writes, and reconcile themselves to the real possibility of the conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement. Moreover this "zero option," in the form proposed by the USSR, is, in the opinion of 92 percent of those polled by the weekly STERN, categorized as a "very good" or "good" proposal on disarmament.

The camp of the opponents of a nuclear-free Europe and their camouflage are not homogeneous. These people include many who believe that much water will flow under the bridge before the point of genuine disarmament is reached. So why reject a proposal which is advantageous in propaganda terms, they ask. Let us support the "zero option" for the time being, they say, and then we shall see....

Others -- mainly representatives of the Defense Ministry and the Bundeswehr, but also certain high-ranking figures in the conservative CDU/CSU bloc, mainly from its extreme right wing, christened the "steel helmet' faction -- are trying surreptitiously to make the talks which have begun more difficult.

They are once again juggling with figures, manipulating the facts, and kindling the fears of ordinary and misinformed people about the USSR's "military superiority" and the "threat" to the FRG and Western Europe from the East....

This is also done in order to justify the demand to raise the ceilings on operational and tactical missiles, that is, to increase the number for the West, or in other words "upgrade" again. And not only in this sphere, but in all parameters and avenues, leading to a further intensification of the NATO doctrine of "deterrence." You might think the opponents of the "zero option" are deaf and blind. They stubbornly fail to notice that M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement, which, of course, they have studied from the first line to the last, says clearly and specifically: "As for other operational and tactical missiles, we are prepared to commence talks immediately with a view to their reduction and total elimination."

How can there be talks of new, higher ceilings, of "upgrading," when the reduction and total elimination of this type of missile is being proposed?! The same could be said of conventional arms and chemical weapons -- the socialist countries' proposals on this score have been on the conference table for a long time.

Naturally, the question arises among the progressive FRG public: Can and will the new government in Bonn overcome this half-concealed opposition, behind which are substantial forces which gamble on endlessly forging evermore dangerous weapons capable of exterminating the human race, and which has no intention of giving up its militarist positions without a fight? The answer can only be made clear by Bonn's concrete efforts, not by mere assurances of good intentions. The FRG public expects the government to promote disarmament in practice. The FRG has the potential for this: How much has been said and written here about the close friendship with the United States, the bonds of alliance, the fact that people in Washington "heed" Bonn's opinion on questions of European security?....

Schmidt Interviewed 6 Apr

PM071457 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 87 First Edition p 7

[Interview with former FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt by V. Mikhaylov: "Helmut Schmidt: 'Time Is Running Out. We Must Hurry.' About New Thinking and the 'Zero Option'"; in Moscow; date not specified]

[Text] Before me is a man whose name is widely known. Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of the FRG, who headed its government in the latter half of the seventies and the early eighties. The FRG was envisaged as the chief base for the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. The chancellor found himself caught between two opposing forces -- the Pentagon with its European minions, and increased resistance within the country. Helmut Schmidt's role was not unequivocal at that complex time.

In Europe it was a difficult time for the new growth of detente. NATO was adopting the nuclear "arms upgrading" program.

Helmut Schmidt recently arrived with a group of prominent FRG politicians for the 10th meeting with Soviet partners named for the West German city of Bergedorf, where the first one was held. Although the meetings are of a closed nature, the winds of beneficial change in our country have penetrated them. The discussion participants were attracted by the dynamism of the Soviet initiatives and, above all, the proposals for ridding Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles.

The conversation also turned to changes in an interview which H. Schmidt granted to PRAVDA. Extremely exact, as always, he looked at the clock and said:

"I have been here just 36 hours, and it is hard for me to evaluate what is happening in the country. But it is perfectly possible to say how the Soviet Union now looks from abroad and to see a great deal without even coming here. What are most noteworthy are the changes in the intellectual and political climate. Soviet political leaders and the Soviet press are speaking far more freely and openly about their country and its problems, compared with the way I perceived this earlier.

"I would like M.S. Gorbachev to achieve positive results with the reforms. This is not only in the interests of the Soviet Union's peoples but also in the interests of others, of all the USSR's neighbors. This critical and self-critical approach is the first thing to attract attention.

"The second thing which can be discerned from outside and is confirmed by conversations here is the openness on the foreign policy plane. The most tangible changes are in disarmament policy, and I do not doubt their genuineness. The moratorium on nuclear tests, which stood for so long, should be singled out as something particularly positive. Unfortunately, the other side did not join in. But it as an action which should be remembered as being very positive.

"Or take the recent proposals at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and the recent proposal on medium-range missiles. Gorbachev proposes a zero solution for both sides. I was pleased to learn that my role as a pioneer of the 'zero option' is known here. Now," H. Schmidt continued, "we can only fear lest Reagan abandons his previous consent. Of course, I am very satisfied that a useful idea has fallen on rich soil here. But we must hurry. Time is running out. The U.S. presidential election campaign begins next year. It will be hard to ratify any agreement in Congress. We -- rather, you -- already have sad experience. Consequently, a treaty must be drafted and approved during this year. I am wholeheartedly for this."

"As regards the Soviet Union, we are witnessing favorable development on the internal and the external plane."

"Could the U.S. European partners not exert a greater influence on Washington?" I asked H. Schmidt. "The process of destroying the arms limitation system is assuming menacing proportions. The SALT treaty is being cast aside and the ABM Treaty is being undermined."

"West European states advocate observance of the existing agreements," my interlocutor replied. "The Federal Government has come out quite clearly in favor of preserving the existing interpretation of the ABM Treaty. It considers it perfectly justified. However, the United States maintains that you too are conducting similar work for space. And it is difficult for West Europeans to know who is right -- they do not have monitoring satellites. In general, there is a definite uncertainty."

"What is your attitude toward the policy of strength? To the desire to seek security in more and more new wonder weapons?"

"I have never been a supporter of the policy of strength. My principle is equality. Nor have I ever considered it right to strive for military superiority. But not everyone is capable of switching to this thinking at once. People in the Soviet Union must be more patient. You cannot expect everyone to say 'Yes' and 'Amen' just like that, in a moment. But the principle of equality and identical security is extremely important for everyone. It must be adhered to at talks on any kinds of arms.

"On the whole, West Europeans welcome the new thinking that is taking root in the Soviet Union. There is no doubt about this. But the West Europeans' skepticism must be understood: Anything is possible in life."

In my view, answers like this and the preceding one are very diplomatic. My interlocutor has great experience here.

"Incidentally," H. Schmidt said, smiling, "the story of who was the first to propose the 'zero option' will undoubtedly not be printed in our country: This does not suit either my party or the others. Perhaps you will give it..."

FRENCH REACTION TO EUROMISSILE PROPOSALS ASSESSED

PM211057 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[V. Bolshakov article under the rubric "Hopeful Prospects": "The 'Prague Package' and Paris"]

[Text] The new Soviet peace initiatives put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Prague are referred to here as the "Prague package." They have rocked French public opinion. And the bitter polemics on the subject in the French press and among political circles reveal the difficulty with which the new thinking is forging a path for itself in France. The reason for this is that the claim that only nuclear weapons can guarantee French security has been regarded as axiomatic here for decades.

The day after M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Prague, the newspaper LE MONDE noted in an editorial that the Soviet leader had dealt "point by point" with all the "Europeans' fears" regarding an agreement on reducing Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe. "Tactical nuclear weapons? He has agreed," LE MONDE writes, "to discuss this issue without delay. Chemical weapons? The USSR has stopped producing them and is prepared to destroy its stockpiles. The imbalance in conventional weapons? In his opinion, these weapons should be very decisively reduced, rather than make some insignificant reduction. And regarding the verification of any agreements concluded in the future, in his words, it must be 'an important means of ensuring security.'"

This observation by LE MONDE contains the key to understanding the almost desperate reaction to the Soviet leader's Prague proposals which is now evident here in the right-wing pro-Atlantic press and among the French political circles whose opinion it reflects. The newspaper LE FIGARO, for example, has published an article entitled "Europe in Danger." Exactly what kind of danger is seen by the mouthpiece of the French right in the new USSR proposals? It transpires that these proposals, like the proposals to remove medium-range missiles from Europe, according to LE FIGARO, "represent a gigantic step along the road to the aim the USSR has always pursued: the 'denuclearization' of the continent so as to leave Western Europe at the mercy of the monstrous Soviet arsenal of conventional weapons and force the United States to remove its troops from Europe."

It is amazing that LE FIGARO could have arrived at this conclusion. Because literally on the next page the same newspaper -- it must be given its due for this -- faithfully reproduces in detail the whole complex of proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Prague. Any intelligent person will understand, on becoming acquainted with this "Prague package," that neither France nor any other European country should be alarmed by the prospect of nuclear weapons being removed from our continent. All the more so in view of the fact that these weapons will be reduced gradually, with regard for the limits of reasonable sufficiency. Both conventional and chemical weapons can be reduced at the same time as nuclear weapons. Operational and tactical weapons can be reduced at the same time as medium-range missiles, and so forth.

French peace supporters are now in favor of Europe, and France especially, taking precisely this path rather than pursuing the arms race. An Action Week for Disarmament was held here 4 through 11 April at the call of the French Peace Movement. During this time tens of thousands of signatures were collected for an appeal by the movement to end the French nuclear tests on Mururua Atoll and against the production of space, chemical, and neutron weapons. Those who took part in the week appealed to the French Government to support the new Soviet peace initiatives and become actively involved in the task of disarmament.

EURODEFENSE PLAN SEEN AS 'BARRIER TO PEACE'

PM090911 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Yu. Kovalenko "Letter From Paris": "Nuclear Axis for Europe"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today France stands at the head of those forces trying to accelerate integration processes in Western Europe, and now the military aspects are being moved to the forefront. This alteration in European development occurred after the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik, which revealed the possibility of reaching agreement on a reduction in nuclear arsenals, and particularly after the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles. As one prominent figure admits, this proposal had the "effect of an electric shock" here. After a series of consultations, the allies headed by Paris have decided to take countermeasures.

New accents were clearly apparent in a message from the French premier to the heads of government of the 11 "Common Market" countries. It opens with an appeal to create a "force" (military force being the intention) which would allow "Europe to remain free and independent." For his part, speaking several days earlier at a meeting of the French Diplomatic Press Association, President F. Mitterrand once again stressed that he supports the idea of increasing "European defense." [passage omitted]

It is no accident that at the last session of the Western European Union, held in December last year, J. Chirac spoke in favor of adopting a "Charter of West European Security Principles" based on nuclear weapons (this proposal has been supported by Bonn). However, the Western European Union only has seven members at present (France, Britain, the FRG, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg) and, despite the fact that Spain and Portugal have stated their intention to join this grouping, to some local strategists it nevertheless appears insufficiently representative and influential. That is why attempts are being made to involve the EEC in resolving the issues of "European defense."

At the beginning of the eighties the FRG and Italy offered a corresponding proposal which was not supported at the time.

This time the initiative has come from J. Delors, chairman of the European Communities Commission and former minister of the economy and finance in the French Government, who has proposed that the EEC discuss the issue of the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles. However, the aim here is to use this discussion merely as a pretext for entrusting the "Common Market" with questions of organizing military cooperation in the future. Revision of the EEC's basic foundations has been opposed in particular by Belgium, which currently presides over this organization. Its foreign minister has reminded people that military issues are not within the competence of the "Common Market." This is indeed so, but many believe that the time has come to broaden the scope of this competence.

How do those on the banks of the Seine envisage this "European defense"? They have no clear idea at present. The pivot of this defense, in the opinion of a number of influential strategists, must be the French and British nuclear arsenals, to which all nuclear weapons at NATO's disposal should be added. Some believe it essential to form a new -- Paris-London -- nuclear axis while others prefer the idea of a Paris-London-Bonn triangle. The mazaine L'EXPRESS which, it seems, lays claim to the role of generator of ideas in the "Eurodefense" sphere, has indicated the possibility of joint nuclear arms production and writes of plans to equip British nuclear submarines with the latest French missiles. Judging by press reports, the decision has already been taken to jointly patrol ocean waters with nuclear submarines under the French and British flags. Does the creation of European nuclear forces mean that West Germany is finally to have access to nuclear arms? A deliberately vague answer is given to this question to avoid causing alarm among the international public. However, it seems that even here there are no insuperable obstacles. FRG and French military experts are already sitting down to discuss the idea of using the tactical nuclear weapons that Paris has at its disposal.

Strategists intend nuclear weapons to form the spearhead of "Eurodefense" but, as F. Mitterand observed in a recent interview with the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA, it must be based on both nuclear and conventional weapons. A buildup of the latter is being accompanied by deafening propaganda about the Warsaw Pact's imaginary superiority in conventional armed forces and arms.

To all appearances, West European defense intends to equip its arsenals with every possible type of weapon, including chemical weapons. According to the magazine L'EXPRESS, the French doctrine of deterrence is becoming multifaceted: Chemical weapons are being added to nuclear arms, because France is ready to begin producing weapons of this kind. This is stated without any reservation in the draft of its new military program.

The question of creating a Euro-SDI (this idea still has supporters) which could be linked with the U.S. "Star Wars" project is also still on the agenda. J. (Bomel), deputy chairman of the French National Assembly Defense Commission, insists on strengthening nuclear defense by immediately beginning production of the neutron bomb, work on the creation of which is already complete.

The material base of "Eurodefense" will be the joint production of both nuclear and conventional types of weapons, that is, a course aimed at standardization, for which the NATO generals have been doggedly aiming for many years. They have now achieved their goal. During a recent visit to France by G. Younger, British secretary of state for defense, the question of creating a unified type of weaponry for the two countries' ground forces was discussed. Paris and Bonn recently reached an accord on the joint production of a fighter helicopter. According to the newspaper LE MONDE, France is also cooperating with Spain in this sphere.

We will add another detail of considerable importance. Bilateral groups have been set up to study military-strategic problems: French-British, French-West German, British-West German, and so forth. After the meeting in Reykjavik, a new "strategic coordination" group was organized without any fuss, which involves high-ranking French, FRG, and British officials.

"Eurodefense" is not conceived of here as a substitute for the North Atlantic alliance or the American military presence in Western Europe, but as an additional mobilization of military resources, a kind of "mini-NATO." And it is quite clear that those on the other side of the Atlantic are following European military building with undisguised interest, voicing their approval and support. Not without foundation, Washington is counting on keeping "Eurodefense" under its control.

The ambiguity of the stand taken by Paris and other West European capitals on a number of key topical problems, and the questions of war and peace in particular, is striking. The French leaders often make statements in favor of disarmament and of reducing nuclear arsenals to the lowest possible level, and they have positively appraised the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles. This is what they say, but in practice they are actively improving their nuclear and conventional weapons and have taken a course aimed at Western Europe's military integration -- a policy directed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

If put into practice, "Eurodefense" will be yet another barrier in the way of peace and disarmament. Do the West Europeans really want to see the blue flag with 12 yellow stars fluttering over their nuclear test sites in the future, with Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" accompanied by the grinding sound of the "European Army's" tank tracks?

TASS NOTES FRENCH BINARY WEAPONS PROGRAM

LD151755 Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS -- France started preparations for the manufacture of binary weapons long before American medium-range and cruise missiles appeared in Europe, Doctor of Technology Pavel Akimov writes in the latest issue of the APN MILITARY REVIEW. The French National Assembly adopted a government programme of rearmament, promised by Jacques Chirac in 1986 immediately upon coming to power. The programme provides not only for a considerable buildup of the country's nuclear potential, but also for the development of a new generation of chemical weapons of the binary type.

President Francois Mitterrand of France said in this connection that the French "chemical deterrence" is a "reply" to the possible achievement of a Soviet-American agreement on medium-range missiles, a "compensation" for the reduction of nuclear potentials in Europe. The French side is creating an impression that its chemical arms programme is something new. The facts tell a different story. Paris and Washington have had agreed plans for cooperation in binary ammunition since the middle 70s.

France has an up-to-date scientific and industrial base for the development and mass production both of unitary and binary chemical ammunition. Binary toxic agents were developed in military laboratories situated in Le Bouchet (near Paris), in Tarbes (Hautes-Pyreness department) and Lyons. The military department runs 13 specialised plants, one of which is situated at Pont-de-Claix and is designed to produce only chemical arms. French chemical weapons are tested on ranges situated in France proper and in its overseas territories. Much attention is given to preparing the French Army for chemical warfare. Large-scale exercises are being carried out in situations as close to combat as possible.

FURTHER ON SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD'S VISIT

Meets With Gorbachev

PM271130 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition pp 1, 2

[TASS report: "Soviet, Syrian Talks"]

[Text] Talks were held in the Kremlin 24 April between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Taking part in the talks were:

On the Soviet side — E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; K.F. Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Yu.M. Vorontsov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR first deputy foreign minister; K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and A.S. Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador to Syria;

On the Syrian side — A.H. Khaddam, member of the Pan-Arab and religious leadership of the Ba'th Party and Syrian vice president; M. Talas, member of the Ba'th Party regional leadership, deputy prime minister and defense minister of Syria; S. Hammadi, member of the Ba'th Party regional leadership; D. Naame [name as transliterated], member of the central leadership of the National Progressive Front; S. Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs; F. al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister; and Yu. Dzhumaa [name as transliterated], Syrian charge d'affaires in the USSR.

A detailed exchange of views took place on a wide range of international and Near Eastern problems. Questions of Soviet-Syrian cooperation were also discussed. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev shared his thoughts about the revolutionary restructuring taking place in Soviet society. We are making, he said, a sharp turn in the development of the country. Realization of what has been conceived is in the interests not only of the Soviet people, but of other peoples too. This will mean a growth of the potential for peace and progress on earth.

The Syrian president showed a lively interest in the processes of restructuring in the USSR, notably from the point of view of their influence upon the international situation and relations between states. In turn, he gave information on the economic situation of his country and on its internal and external problems.

Setting out the conceptual content of the work of the CPSU and of the Soviet state in matters of foreign policy, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted that today the realities of the nuclear age face us all with the need to learn to coexist with each other, irrespective of whether we like each other or not and regardless of differences in our political and socioeconomic systems of ideological views. Many statesmen in the West are still living in the past: They look at the world through the prism of imperial politics; they do not want to see the nuclear danger, and they ignore other acute world problems, including the concerns of the developing countries. They still care for nothing except their class advantages. The Western powers have interests of their own; but it is time they reconciled themselves to the fact that the developing countries have the same right to demand that their interests are respected. [paragraph continues]

If these new realities are not understood, if they refuse to adapt to them, a flare-up may occur on a colossal scale -- and then no amount of reference to the hand of Moscow will help.

The international situation, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev continued, is difficult and is not getting any simpler; but it is gratifying that there is growing resistance to the militarist and neoglobalist tendencies on the part of the world public, the broad masses of the people and realistically minded statesmen: a pressure in favor of peace and disarmament.

The peoples are tired of tension and of the fear of nuclear disaster. The peace potential today is being vigorously strengthened by the Nonaligned Movement. The meeting in Harare demonstrated the great possibilities of this movement. It is already exerting solid influence on world affairs; its influence can be felt seriously at the United Nations. It has faced up to truly major world problems, while the imperialists try to hem in the nonaligned countries on local issues.

President al-Asad stressed the increased attention of the nonaligned countries to problems of disarmament and security. This is linked to no small degree with an understanding of the Soviet Union's precise and active position and the significance of its initiatives in face of the acuteness of the nuclear danger. Al-Asad described the USSR's position on questions of war and peace as one that corresponds to the fundamental interests of all peoples. Syria, together with all peace-loving forces, resolutely condemns the dangerous plans for extending the arms race into space, the rejection of which would create favorable conditions for reducing nuclear arsenals and ultimately for their elimination.

During discussion of regional problems there was a common understanding of the sources of the hotbeds of tension. The way toward extinguishing these hotbeds would be much shorter were it not for the policy of neoglobalism being carried out by the United States and its interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The peoples must have a guaranteed right of choice. They are the only ones who can decide the system and the way of development they prefer.

Assessing the situation in the Middle East, those taking part in the talks agreed that this continues to remain unstable and fraught with unexpected turns and risk. Responsibility for this belongs to Israel and the imperialist circles. By hook and by crook they try to secure for themselves dominating military and political positions in the region at the expense of the Arabs and they resort to state terrorism, blackmail, to economic blockade, and to subversive actions. We see a just settlement of the Middle East conflict -- one of the most complex and involved of the regional conflicts -- along political tracks, said Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

That is the general line for solving that conflict. The use of force and fresh outbreaks of war would be fraught with the most serious consequences, both for the peoples of the region and for the world as a whole. The time limit for regional conflicts is already nearing its end. A real possibility has not appeared for seriously tackling the cause of peace in the Near East. It must not be missed. Of key significance here would be a switch-over to practical steps to prepare an international conference. It is time to get that process in motion, to start the movement forward. The rallying of Arab states around that idea is a matter of paramount importance, and no simple one.

In the Arab world there are various forces, and all sorts of problems have accumulated which act as serious irritant factors. However, were it possible to achieve mutual understanding among the Arabs about their fundamental national tasks, those problems would assume their natural proportions and fall into the background. [paragraph continues]

If this could be accomplished, it would be a major historic achievement. In that process, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed, a special role logically belongs to Syria, taking in account its place in opposing imperialist policy in the Near East.

President al-Asad stressed that the imperialists and their accomplices are making every effort to hinder the rallying of Arab ranks. Syria, he said, will do everything it can to promote joint action by the Arabs in the struggle for a just political settlement in the Near East. The U.S. imperialists cannot accept the fact that Syria is pursuing an independent policy and consistently opposes attempts to foist neocolonialist dependence on the Arabs and to force capitulatory separate deals on people. That is why imperialism is striving to punish Syria, using fabricated accusations that it is encouraging terrorist acts, although in reality -- as is shown by the example of the U.S. bombing of Libya and the well-known Israeli acts -- the imperialist circles are the ones pursuing a policy of terrorism.

The joint opinion was expressed that any terrorism, particularly state terrorism, represents a serious threat to peace, security, and international cooperation.

Giving a high assessment to the level of Soviet-Syrian relations that has been attained, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted that Soviet-Syrian friendship corresponds to the fundamental national interests of both countries, and that this acts as a real basis for its further strengthening. Of particular value is the atmosphere of trust which exists between the Soviet Union and Syria and between their leaders. The course of close cooperation with Syria is a long-term policy ensuing from the line of the 27th CPSU Congress toward solidarity with the forces of national liberation.

President al-Asad stated that friendship with the Soviet Union was the cornerstone of Syria's independent policy, its support in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and Israeli aggression. Soviet-Syrian friendship has been tested by time and acute events, and it has proved its firmness. It is supported by every Syrian who holds dear the national interests of his country. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its multifaceted support in the implementation of Syria's social and economic development plans and the strengthening of its defense potential.

The Soviet side expressed its intention to continue giving every possible support in those areas.

Mutual satisfaction was expressed at the all-round exchange of opinions that had taken place and at the common nature of the approaches by the USSR and Syria to the questions discussed.

Further Report

PM271132 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS Report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Meeting With Hafiz al-Asad]

[Text] This afternoon Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad had a private conversation. In the context of today's world situation, they made a profound and all-round examination of the processes in the Near and Middle East, the reasons for and nature of the mutual links between the states in that region and their relations with the USSR, and the prospects for and possible solutions of conflict situations. They discussed relations between the USSR, Syria, and states outside the region that have interests there and are involved in the Near East conflict. They gave a virtually concurring assessment of the policy of those states.

Those taking part in the conversation exchanged information about what each of their countries has done and is doing in order to advance the idea of an international conference on the Middle East. They also expressed themselves resolutely in favor of the political path of settlement which can only lead to a truly just and all-round overcoming of the crisis.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad agreed that the consolidation of the Arab world -- a consolidation orientated toward solving specific tasks linked with the conference and with complicated, and at times delicate, problems of preparatory work -- is of primary importance for the commencement of this process and its successful completion.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad were approving in their attitudes toward the efforts currently being undertaken by participants in the Palestinian resistance movement to rally their ranks and to work out a united platform based on the principle of the overall Middle East settlement process and of preparations for an international conference.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev set out the invariable position of the Soviet Union. From the point of view of the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries and of a Middle East settlement, and the interests of the entire world community, there is no justification for the continuation of this bloodshed. A solution without detriment to either state or to their territorial integrity is possible and must be found. Hafiz al-Asad gave information about his efforts aimed at ending the war.

A wide exchange of opinions took place about the role of religious factors and of religious movements in the past and currently; about their political influence and the significance of a correct assessment of them, and of a correct approach to the search for common aims at whichever stage, irrespective of differences and even disagreements between states.

Some issues linked with giving assistance to Syria in strengthening its defense capability were defined more precisely and cleared up: Additional considerations were expressed concerning the ensuring of bilateral cooperation.

Issues concerning a settlement around Afghanistan were touched upon. The positions of those who are trying to frustrate the process of national reconciliation which has already been set in motion were described.

Those taking part in the conversation were unanimous in their appraisal of the speculation of various kinds being made in connection with the departures from the USSR of a small number of individuals of Jewish nationality.

The conversation was distinguished by the depth with which problems were raised, by frankness [otkrovennost], by an atmosphere of trust and mutual good favor. It was an important event in the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Attends Kremlin Dinner 24 Apr

PM271138 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Excerpt] A dinner was given in the Great Kremlin Palace on 24 April on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Government in honor of Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Accompanying H. al-Asad at the dinner were the party and state figures accompanying him on his visit.

Present on the Soviet side were Comrades M.S. Gorbachev, A.A. Gromyko, N.I. Ryzhkov, E.A. Shevardnadze, S.L. Sokolov, N.V. Talyzin, and A.F. Dobrynin, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, chairmen of USSR state committees, and other officials. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Addresses Gathering

PM271134 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS Report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"; Speech by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at a dinner in honor of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; in Moscow 24 April -- live or recorded]

[Text] Dear friend Hafiz al-Asad.

Esteemed Syrian guests,

Comrades,

We are glad to welcome in Moscow again the leader of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Soviet Union and Syria are linked by friendly ties of many years.

Our all-round cooperation is based on common interests on the main issues of the day. This has been confirmed in the course of the talks today. I wish to mention especially that preparedness has been reaffirmed to assist Syria further in maintaining her defense capacity at the proper level.

We view the visit of the high Syrian delegation as an important milestone in the development of our relations -- political, economic, and cultural, relations along the public and parliamentary lines, and inter-party relations. Friendship and trust between our peoples and their leadership have been confirmed again and fresh impulses have been given to them.

Our country treats with respect and sympathy the freedom-loving Syrian people, their determination to build a progressive modern society which inherited the true values of their past and is worthy of their country's glorious history. The features of present-day Syria include tens of modern industrial plants. They incorporate the work of Soviet people as well. I am saying that with gratification. And now our cooperation is already being put into a star orbit. A joint Soviet-Syrian space mission is to be held soon.

Your visit, esteemed president, Syrian friends, is being paid at a time when revolutionary transformations are underway in the Land of the Soviets. Reorganization and acceleration will elevate socialism to a qualitatively new stage.

Socialism will get everything it needs so as to perform also in the 21st century its mission of the greatest factor of peace and progress. Its ability to give assistance to other peoples, who independently embarked on their path of development -- that of freedom, elimination of backwardness and active independent participation in all the world affairs -- will grow considerably.

Having started such a deep turn inside the country, we are, naturally, interested in the far-reaching reorganization of international relations. Yet our active foreign policy initiative is not only determined by our national interests.

New political mentality and the new foreign policy practices corresponding to it are based on the realistic analysis of the present-day world which has markedly changed recently. They take into account the diverse and conflicting forces of which world politics are comprised. They are motivated by the realization of responsibility for humanity's survival. This is a problem which is to be present in approaching any major issues going beyond the national boundaries in one way or another.

Hence our idea of building a nuclear-free world, hence the concept of creating an all-embracing international security system based on the principle of equal security for all.

The other day we put forward new proposals on disarmament problems. Most statesmen and political figures and the general public have welcomed them. Yet there is again a commotion among the NATO ruling circles as was the case after Reykjavik. All sorts of inventions are being splashed out into public and new fears are being built up.

They are again confusing themselves and the public by the suspicions: What does Moscow have on its mind? Why such bold steps? Isn't what's behind the ideas just cunning and deception designed to lull the vigilance of some and divide all, and then crush Western Europe? The very idea of ridding Europe of the nuclear arsenals is declared to be harmful. It is bitter and ludicrous to see all this in print.

And one can't help asking again: What are you afraid of, gentlemen? Is it really so difficult to rise to the present-day political level in evaluating the truly historical processes which are underway in the Soviet Union. In the whole of the socialist world?! Is it really beyond you to understand the objective, inseparable connection of these processes with genuinely good intentions in foreign policy?

We are not against our fresh initiatives being subjected to a serious discussion at competent and responsible levels. This is natural. It is important yet that these discussions be aimed at a search for mutually acceptable, fair solutions and not at trying to find out methods of how to thwart the whole thing in a "most decent" manner.

They are out to confuse people not only on the question of medium-range missiles, but also on other proposals expressed to George Shultz in Moscow. Propaganda is already beginning, again raising publicity waves around SDI as allegedly a defensive system. They say the Americans are looking for a way out along the lines of turning weapons into defensive ones, while the Russians, as always, are emphasizing offensive weapons.

But how do matters stand in fact? The USSR opposes the race of both defensive and offensive weapons and favors the elimination of all types of nuclear weapons.

The United States is not only engaged in SDI. It is increasing the production and perfection of aircraft, missiles, new warheads designed precisely to penetrate our defenses and, it must be noted, for that matter, it spends far more time on that than on SDI.

And then, isn't the elimination of nuclear weapons, for which we call, the best, the surest way to strengthen defense?

In addition, the very notions "defense", "offensive" become anachronisms in this nuclear age. Another point should be discussed -- that of preventing war. Herein lies the novelty of the situation both for politicians and for generals. But the main means of defense, if we speak about it, is mutual disarmament.

The edifice of peace, especially in the nuclear epoch, cannot be durable if at least a part of it remains outside the security system. That is why the USSR strongly favors the settlement of conflict situations, the so-called regional conflicts. A special place among them is occupied by the Middle East problem -- one of the most chronic and involved. For two decades now -- and if we measure that time from the very outset, even twice as long -- it has been crippling the life and destinies of the peoples of the Middle East.

It is impossible to put up with billions spent on military needs, bloody clashes following one another, human casualties almost every day, political and psychological tensions, and an atmosphere of fear and the lack of confidence any longer. This situation affects the economy, hampers development, leads to a drop in living standards, accumulation of social problems; zones of real calamity for the people are formed.

The stake on military power in settling the conflict has become completely discredited. It would seem that there is more than enough proof of this. The principal source of the persisting conflict is the expansionist policy of the Washington-backed ruling circles of Israel. The U.S. regards the Middle East as a test range for modeling its imperial policy. The U.S., as we have observed, is using regional conflicts in general for manipulating the level of tension and confrontation.

We express solidarity with the Arabs who refuse to recognize the occupation of their lands. We categorically condemn the discrimination against the Palestinian people denied the right to self-determination and the right of a homeland. In the future, like in the past, we will oppose any separate deals, as they are only holding back and thwarting the search for a genuine settlement.

Israeli leaders are stubbornly clinging to the policy which has no prospects. They are trying to build the security of their country by intimidating its neighbors and are using all means, even state terror, for that purpose. This is a faulty and short-sighted policy, the more so since it is directed against almost 200 million Arabs.

There is another, correct and reliable, way for ensuring a secure future for the state of Israel. It is a just peace and, in the final analysis, goodneighborly relations with the Arabs.

Much has been said lately about relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, and a lot of lies have been spread, too. Let me put it straight: The absence of such relations cannot be considered normal. But they were severed by Israel in the first place. It happened as a result of the aggression against the Arab countries.

We recognize without any reservations -- to the same extent as with all other states -- the right of Israel to a peaceful and secure existence. At the same time, like in the past, the Soviet Union is categorically opposed to Tel Aviv's policy of strength and annexations. It should be plain -- changes in relations with Israel are conceivable only in the mainstream of the process of settlement in the Middle East. This issue cannot be taken out of such a context. This interrelationship has been created by the course of events, by Israel's policy.

We are confident that preparations for an international conference on the Middle East involving all the sides concerned should be a focal point for collective efforts to bring about a settlement.

This idea, as you know, has no easy fate -- it was not accepted at once. But the past years have demonstrated that it is the only road out of the impasse. Today it would not be an exaggeration to say that a substantial part of the international community of nations favors such a conference. Even the United States and Israel cannot maintain an openly negative stand.

The time has come to start careful and painstaking preparatory work. The permanent members of the Security Council could take the initiative in that matter. The Soviet Union, let me reaffirm, is prepared for honest and contructive efforts on a collective bilateral basis.

During our conversations we discussed these issues in sufficient detail. I cannot but express satisfaction at the fact that Syrian leadership is unswervingly following the course toward a political settlement.

It is absolutely obvious that much will depend in this respect on the political activity and persistence of the Arab states, on coordination between them. We are saddened by disunity, frictions and conflicts in the Arab world which are vigorously exploited by imperialists and their henchmen. Naturally we saw a good sign in the current efforts to restore the unity of the PLO.

Making sacrifices and suffering deprivations, the Syrian Arab Republic has for many years now been courageously resisting aggression, the policy of diktat and neocolonialist plans. Its vanguard positions in the anti-imperialist struggle are indisputable. Its role is indispensible in consolidating the Arab world along the lines of the Middle East settlement the most important aim of which is the return of the territories seized by Israel and the exercise of the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Now that preparatory work for an international conference on the Middle East is appearing on the order of the day a common Arab stand on that matter is especially important. And here, in our opinion, the activity and authority of the Syrian friends can become a decisive factor.

In conclusion, let me express confidence that cooperation and interaction between the Soviet Union and Syria sealed by the 1980 treaty will continue to successfully develop in the interests of our peoples, for the benefit of peace and progress in the Middle East and the world over.

I wish good health to you, Comrade al-Asad, and to all Syrian guests, and peace and prosperity to the friendly Syrian people.

Al-Asad Discusses Issues

PM271136 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS Report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere;" Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at a dinner banquet held in his honor in Moscow on 24 April -- read by announcer]

[Text] Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; comrades and friends. It pleases us to pay a new visit to the USSR, the state to which we are bound by strong relations of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect, equity, and common principles. [paragraph continues]

I thank the Soviet leadership for its invitation which permitted us to make this visit to exchange views on issues of joint concern, thus continuing the tradition we have been following in recent years. In my name and on behalf of the Syrian delegation, I express thanks and gratitude for your hospitality and the atmosphere of friendship you have created around us since our arrival in Moscow.

We have listened with great interest and appreciation to Comrade Gorbachev's welcoming speech and the issues it contained which are of interest to our two countries. I thank you, Comrade General Secretary of the CPSU, for the friendly sentiments for us and for the Syrian Arab Republic your speech contained, and your affirmation of the friendship and cooperation between our two parties and countries. I take this opportunity to convey the greetings of our people and party leadership to you and to all the comrades in the Soviet leadership and the peoples of the USSR and their sincere wishes for more achievements and success.

It pleases us to pay this visit while you are preparing late this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which constituted a deep-rooted turn in the history of humanity and an important transformation in peoples' struggle to be free of colonialism and exploitation, for the right to self-determination, and to save the world from the wars imperialism is rekindling to control and exploit other peoples and plunder their wealth and natural resources.

We in Syria mention with appreciation the support the Great October Socialist Revolution extends to our struggle against the aggressive imperialist-Zionist plots, for liberating the occupied Arab territories, regaining the usurped Arab rights, and establishing peace in our region on their basis. In this context, I would like to tell our Soviet friends that the USSR has a great asset of love and respect among out people thanks to its principled, firm support for our struggle against aggression and its sincere backing of our efforts to build our country and strengthen its economy.

Over the past years and since 1970, relations between our two countries have witnessed great development. The establishment of these relations on the firm basis of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty of 1980 was the climax of this development in the various aspects of cooperation between Syria and the USSR. Time has proved that these strong relations are clearly commensurate with the interests of our two peoples, positively contributing to the world peoples' struggle against the forces of exploitation and aggression.

There are clear signs that highlight the fruits of the current Syrian-USSR cooperation, that is the numerous construction and economic projects carried out in our country with Soviet assistance. We are enthusiastically looking forward to a new stage in the development of friendly ties in the field of scientific cooperation between the two countries which will be represented by the joint spaceflight in July, which will constitute an important, qualitative development in our cooperation. From what I have read and heard of the Soviet experts' statements on the learning skills of the two Syrian Air Force officers Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib and their understanding of the task for which they were nominated, I am sure that this will please and elate our people. In the name of our people, in my own name, and in the name of our Armed Forces, I thank all the Soviet instructors and experts who contributed to training Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib for their sincere, friendly efforts in training them to take part in the coming spaceflights. I am certain that our visit to your country will be a new and great contribution to strengthening relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR.

The conditions and developments in the Arab region and Europe as well as international relations will be the main topics of our discussions. As for the situation in the Arab region, it continues to be charged with explosive factors that constitute a threat to world peace as a result of Israel's adherence to the policy of occupation and expansion at the expense of the Arab nation, and because of the support this policy is receiving from the imperialist forces that also aim at controlling our region.

The interconnection between the imperialist and Israeli interests is manifested by the growing close alliance between the United States and Israel and the increasing U.S. support for Israel in all fields.

As a result of this support, Israel continues to occupy Arab territories, to usurp the Palestinian Arab people's rights, and to carry out repressive and terrorist acts against our people in the Golan Heights and our Arab brothers in southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. Israel has also continued to resist the implementation of pertinent UN resolutions and to reject an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

If the United States shows that it somewhat accepts the concept of the conference, it eventually wants it to be a bogus conference to act as an international cover for achieving its interests and those of Israel. It wants the conference to be an umbrella for the unilateral and partial solutions it has always sought. Moreover, Israel has continued to confiscate lands in the occupied Arab territories to establish settlements and military positions with the objective of entrenching the occupation. Israel uses U.S. financial, economic, and military aid to achieve this objective. Every kind of aid Israel receives helps it continue its aggression against our people and prolong its occupation of the Arab territories. This eventually means preventing the attainment of peace in the regions. In order to recruit manpower, Zionism has claimed to be the Jews' representative in the world. With this historically unprecedented claim, and through deception and delusion, Zionism managed to urge Jews to emigrate to Israel to attach them to its war machine which is devoted to carrying out aggression, expansion, murder, and destruction.

Syria, which is working for true peace and which calls for an international peace conference with a sound basis and a clear objective that will lead to ending occupation and aggression and restoring rights to their people, cannot under these circumstances but continue to be ready to confront the Israeli aggression and the hegemonist plans of imperialism, and to struggle to liberate the occupied territory and regain the usurped rights. Syria, which believes that Arab solidarity is an important factor in confronting imperialism and Zionism, sincerely seeks to establish an effective Arab solidarity on a hostile basis to the Camp David course and all the imperialist and Zionist plans. Within this framework, Syria is continuously working for a Palestinian national will on a similar basis. As long as aggression and occupation continue, our people have the right to resist occupation and aggression. On this basis, Syria supports the national resistance in southern Lebanon and all the occupied Arab territories. As for Lebanon, the fraternal country which has been suffering for a long time from its crisis, we will continue to support it and to assist the parties there to end the crisis and restore normal life through national accord.

The colonialist, imperialist, and Zionist forces, which seek to destroy the national liberation movements and the national resistance movements, have branded these movements as terrorist. They also branded those who support these movements as terrorists. We proposed the formation of an international committee to define terrorism with the objective of making a clear distinction between liberation movements and resistance and terrorist acts. We thank the USSR and those who supported our proposal. We hope that their support will contribute to the implementation of this proposal.

Comrade Gorbachev, comrades, and friends, in past years, international relations have gone through a stage characterized by strong tension. The international situation has also grown worse and become more delicate due to the U.S. insistence on escalating the arms race and militarizing outer space. There have recently been signs of the possibility of reaching some agreements on arms limitation and arms control thanks to Soviet initiatives. We appreciate the USSR's efforts to save humanity from a nuclear catastrophe, to establish detente in international relations, and to settle international conflicts in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter. We also appreciate the USSR's concern for maintaining world peace and security and for safeguarding peoples' rights. We support the various proposals on establishing nuclear-free zones in the world. We wish our friends in the USSR success in implementing the policy of the 27th CPSU Congress and in achieving the aspired-to objectives in the interest of the Soviet and world peoples who believe that your country is a supporter of freedom and a defender of world peace. Let the Syrian Arab-Soviet friendship be reinforced. Let the world peoples who struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and their allies achieve victory.

In conclusion, I greet the Soviet peoples and wish them continued success. I greet Comrade Gorbachev, Comrade Gromyko, and Comrade Ryzhkov, wishing them continued good health and happiness.

Joint Statement Released

LD271335 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 87 Second Edition pp 1, 5

[Joint Soviet-Syrian statement on the 23-25 April visit to the USSR by Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic]

[Text] H. Asad, general secretary of the Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR] visited the USSR 23-25 April 1987 on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers. Soviet-Syrian talks were held in Moscow between CPSU General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev and H. al-Asad. Taking part in the talks were:

On the Soviet side -- E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs; S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.M. Kamentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; K.F. Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Yu.M. Vorontsov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs; K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy committee chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; A.S. Dzasokhov, USSR Ambassador to the SAR; V.P. Polyakov, member of the collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Syrian side -- A.H. Khaddam, member of the Pan-Arab and Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and SAR vice president; M. Talas, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputy prime minister, and SAR defense minister; Sa. Hammadi, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Party; D. Ni'mih, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Frnt; S. Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; F. Al-Shar', SAR minister of foreign affairs; Y. Jum'ah, SAR charge d'affaires in the USSR: and J. Al-Kafr I, director of the East European Section of the SAR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A separate discussion between M.S. Gorbachev and H. al-Asad was held. A meeting also took place between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Polituro and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Syrian president.

In the course of the talks and conversations, which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the identity of views of the two countries on a broad range of international problems and on the situation in the Near East was confirmed. According were also reached on concrete directions for the further development of friendly and mutually advantageous Soviet-Syrian relations. Guided by the spirit and principles of the (1980) USSR-SAR Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, and also in light of the exchange of views made between the leaders of the USSR and the SAR, the two sides declare the following:

I.

The USSR and the SAR are convinced that today's fundamental issue is the preservation of life on earth, the construction of a world free of nuclear arms and other mass-destruction weapons, and a nonviolent and democratic world. The strategy of ensuring a reliable system of international security, founded on mutual trust between peoples and states and not poisoned by the venom of fear, suspicion and hatred, is destined to provide guarantees for the survial of the present and future generations, and to consolidate forever the principles of secure development and well-being of peoples.

Comprehensive security on an equal basis for all demands the resolute elimination of accumulated arms arsenals as well as preventing the development [razrabotka] of new and still more destructive kinds of weapons and their deployment in space. Such security will not be achieved if the threat on the ground is supplemented or replaced by a threat from space.

The complex of large-scale initiatives put forward by the USSR is a significant practical step in the direction toward creating a firm foundation for restructuring international relations and resolving fundamental problems of war and peace. These bold and far-reaching proposals aimed at resetting the cause of nuclear disarmament in motion would lead to the liquidation of nuclear arms by the end of the century. It is regrettable that the current U.S. Administration, which not only failed to respond positively the peaceful Soviet initiatives and practical acts, but even opted for violating the SALT II treaty, is trying to undermine the ABM Treaty, and is developing [razrabatyvat] and building up qualitatively new strategic armaments.

The two sides make special note of the fact that through the fault of the United States, a chance was missed in Reykjavik to attain radical accords on disarmament issues and to draw very close to a nuclear-free world.

The USSR's major new initiative on medium-range missiles opens up favorable opportunities for clearing away the obstructions on the road to reducing the nuclear danger. It is in line with the fundamental interests of the peoples of Europe, and equally with those of the peoples of the Near East and North Africa, who are within range of U.S. 'Euromissiles.'

The movement toward a nonviolent world must be accompanied by the eradication of such monstrous phenomena as discrimination and racism, and by the consolidation of states' political and economic independence, and of their equality. The interests of a stable peace and reliable security insistently demand that the resources currently directed toward military purposes be employed for the need of social and economic development. [paragraph continues]

Part of the means freed in the disarmament process should be employed to render assistance to the developing countries, and for overcoming economic backwardness and destitution. A broad dialogue must be developed on all these issues at international forums.

The USSR and the SAR reject the policy of neoglobalist diktat, arbitrariness, and enmity which imperialist circles, led by the United States, are continuing to pursue. The sides resolutely condemn acts of direct armed aggression, blackmail and pressure aimed against the Arabs, and infringements of their legitimate national rights, attempts by imperialism and reaction to obstruct the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan and around it, the hostile policy of the United States with regard to Nicaragua, the increase of tension by it in Central America, and the maintenance of apartheid in South Africa. Each nation has the right to independence, sovereignty, and an independent choice of its path of development, without foreign interference. Only on such a basis is it possible to ensure the elimination of existing hotbeds of tension and the prevention of the appearance of new ones.

The leaders of the USSR and the SAR express serious concern at the continuing tension in the Mediterranean. This is aggravated by the United States more often dispatching its naval forces, violating the sovereignty of coastal states, and blackmailing their governments. As a result, the situation in the subregion of southern Europe, the Near East and North Africa is becoming increasingly explosive. The USSR and the SAR call on the Mediterranean states to increase their efforts to turn this region into a stable zone of peace, free of nuclear arms and foreign bases.

The USSR and the SAR consider that terrorism, particularly state terrorism, represents a serious threat to the cause of peace, security, and international cooperation. They wholeheartedly condemn all forms of terrorist activity undertaken by individuals, groups or states. The two sides express profound concern that a phenomenon such as terrorism is being used by imperialist circles and racist regimes to conduct a policy hostile to peoples' aspirations for freedom and independence. The USSR proclaims its support for the SAR initiative on the convocation of an international conference, under the aegis of the United Nations to define terrorism, the differences between it and the national liberation struggle of the peoples, and also to produce international accords and adopt the appropriate measures aimed at preventing and forestalling all acts of international terrorism. The sides consider it necessary to struggle against terrorist activity by all legal means.

The Nonaligned Movement has a signficiant role to play in the process of establishing the new political thinking. The movement's political declaration, which was approved at its eighth conference in Harare, is permeated with concern for the destinies of mankind, and is aimed at easing tension and developing international cooperation. The declaration cogently demonstrates the common vested interest of the socialist and nonaligned states in ensuring universal peace, the security of peoples, and a sharp improvement in the international situation. Joint actions of all states and political and social forces will lay the road to a peaceful future and to shifting international relations onto a course of trust and cooperation, which should take the place of confrontation and enmity. The USSR and the SAR call on all peoples, large and small, to actively join in the struggle to establish peace on our planet and to create a comprehensive international security system.

II.

Serious anxiety is caused to the USSR and the SAR by the preservation of the acute conflict situation in the Near East, where the bloodshed and Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands is not coming to an end, and where the Arabs' sufferings are multiplying, especially those of the Palestinian people, who are deprived of their homeland. [paragraph continues]

As a result of the aggressive actions of imperialism and Israel, the region has frequently been an arena of bloody clashes that have cost its peoples incalculable misfortune. This situation contradicts the fundamental interests of the peoples of the region, all the peoples of the world, and seriously undermines international security. It is now time for active and purposeful efforts by the world community aimed at the speediest liquidation of the source of tension in the Near East; the principles of the inadmissibility of aggression and of taking foreign land by force must be strictly observed. Without these fundamental principles, peace in the region will not be reached.

International legality and justice must lie at the base of establishing a comprehensive and truly stable peace in the Near East. Infringement upon the national rights of the peoples will be a constant source of new flareups and conflicts.

A comprehensive and stable peace in the Near East may be established only on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the implementation of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state, and a return to their homes in accordance with UN decisions.

Insofar as the Near East conflict is taking place in a most important region of the globe, and its consequences are exerting a negative influence on the situation in the world as a whole, it is impossible to resolve by means of partial and separate deals. In this connection, the sides reaffirm their nonacceptance of the Camp David policy and its consequences.

The attainment of an all-embracing and just settlement in the Near East is possible only through collective efforts. One main route exists for this -- the convocation of a full and plenipotentiary international conference under the aegis of the United Nations, and with the participation of all sides directly interested. The implementation of the proposal to set up a preparatory committee, involving all permanent members of the UN Security Council, which gained the support of the UN General Assembly, the Eighth Nonaligned Movement conference and the Islamic Conference Organization conference in Kuwait, could become a practical step in this direction.

The need to restore unity in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance movement on a principled, anti-imperialist platform was stressed.

The USSR and the SAR support the struggle by the Lebanese people and its national-patriotic forces to liberate the country from Israeli occupation. It is necessary to strive to ensure that Israel completely, and with no conditions of any kind, removes its troops from the southern regions of Lebanon, as envisaged by the relevant UN resolutions. Lebanese internal problems may be resolved only along the lines of achieving national agreement, while retaining the unity of Lebanon, its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The cessation of the bloody conflict between Iraq and Iran, imposed upon two neighborly peoples, and which has bled the resources of these countries, would be a major contribution to the cause of the overall improvement of the situation the Near and Middle East, and would strengthen the front of the forces struggling against imperialism and Zionism in this region.

The increasing encroachments by imperialism and Zionism on the independence and national dignity of the Arabs, the U.S. armed aggression against Libya, and the broad campaign of pressure on Syria that has been unleashed in the West, face the Arab people with the most urgent task of surmounting the continuing conflicts and internecine strife, of unifying their potential and achieving effective solidarity as a means of rebuffing the attacks of imperialism and Zionism. [paragraph continues]

The firm principled stand taken by Syria plays an important part in realizing these tasks.

The USSR and the SAR state they will do everything possible to ensure the triumph of peace and justice in the Near East. The close cooperation and coordinated action between the USSR and the SAR are an important factor in ensuring security and stability in the region.

III

The USSR and the SAR are fully resolved to continue strengthening their mutual trust, multilevel links, and close relations, which are developing successfully on the firm basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty. This is in the national interests of the Soviet and Syrian peoples and the interests of the struggle for lasting peace, independence, and social progress. The close interaction between the USSR and the SAR is an obstacle to the implementation of the neoglobalist and expansionist plans of imperialism and Zionism in the Near East.

The USSR and the SAR express satisfaction with the constructive political contacts between the two countries, an important place in the development of which is occupied by meetings between Soviet and Syria leaders. The further drawing closer together of the USSR and SAR, the deepening of their political cooperation, and closer coordination of action will play an important part in enhancing the effectiveness of bilateral relations and the efforts being made to resolve the deadlock in the Near East conflict, and to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

A substantial contribution toward deepening the mutual understanding between the USSR and the SAR is made by the cooperation between the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The further broadening of interparty ties and the development of new forms and directions for these ties constitute the path the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party intend to continue. An important component part of Soviet-Syrian relations are the links between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the SAR People's Assembly, which promote the strengthening of friendship between the two states.

The dynamically developing economic, trade, scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and the SAR, based on the principles of equality and mutual interest, are fruitful in nature and promote the developments of the Syrian economy and the solution of the national economic tasks facing both states. With the USSR's economic and technical assistance, the mighty Euphrates hydropower complex was built in Syria, vast areas of land have been provided with irrigation, power transmission lines have been erected, railway lines laid, an oil recovery industry has been created, and a multitude of qualified specialists have been trained for various spheres of the national economy. The two sides intend to continue and deepen the mutually advantageous cooperation in the development of sectors which are of great importance for strengthening the SAR's national economy and improving the well-being of the Syrian people.

The understandings reached in the course of the talks that have taken place -- specifically, the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation to develop Syria's phosphate industry, and the protocol on questions of cooperation in building the "Tishrin" hydroengineering scheme, in developing the oil industry and in other areas, which were signed -- open up additional prospects for Soviet-Syrian economic ties to surge ahead in the principal directions. The drafting and subsequent realization through joint efforts of an integrated long-term program for developing cooperation to the year 2000 will give relations between the two countries a more effective and mutually beneficial character, and will ensure the discovery and use of promising spheres and forms of interaction.

An important place in Soviet-Syrian relations is held by military cooperation, which is intended to assist the strengthening of the SAR's defense capability in the face of the aggressive aspirations of imperialist circles and Israel.

Bilateral links in the area of public organizations, culture, and science should bring the two peoples still closer together. An increase in the activity of friendship societies, cooperation between the national solidarity committees, and an expansion in the program of cultural exchanges contain substantial possibilities for enriching Soviet-Syrian relations and filling them with even weightier content.

The Soviet-Syrian talks were fruitful and of a constructive nature. They were a fresh major contribution to the development of close friendship and multifaceted cooperation between the USSR and the SAR.

Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and SAR president invited M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to visit Syria. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Concludes Visit 25 Apr

LD251823 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] An official friendly visit in our country by Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, has ended. An official send-off ceremony took place today at St George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev warmly bade farewell to the Syrian leader.

The motorcade accompanied by an escort of honor of motorcyclists left the Kremlin for the airport. The national flags of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union as well as greeting banners were erected in the streets and squares all along the motorcade route.

The honor guard was formed at the Vnukovo airport airfield. The commander of the honor guard made a report. The national anthems of the two countries were played.

Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the ranks of Soviet soldiers. The send-off ceremony ended with an honor guard parade.

At the plane's gangway, Hafiz al-Asad was seen off by Comrades Gromyko, Shevardnadze, Sokolov, Dobyrnin, and other officials.

Before his departure, Hafiz al-Asad had a conversation with Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko,

Talks between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad took place on 24 April in the Kremlin. A detailed exchange of views on a broad range of international and Near East problems took place. Issues of Soviet-Syrian cooperation were discussed. Comrades Shevardnadze, Sokolov, Dobyrnin and other officials, from the Soviet side, and officials accompanying Hafiz al-Asad, from the Syrian side, took part in the talks.

A tete-a-tete conversation between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad took place on 24 April. Processes in the Near and Middle East were examined in a profound and comprehensive way and within the context of the current international situation. Also discussed were the causes and the nature of links between the states of that region and their relations with the USSR, as well as prospects and possible solutions for conflict situations.

The same day a dinner was given in honor of Hafiz al-Asad in the Grand Kremlin Palace on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Government. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Hafiz al-Asad spoke at the dinner.

PALESTINIAN COMMUNISTS ISSUE STATEMENT ON UNITY

LD271539 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers April 27 TASS — The Palestine Communist Party has expressed satisfaction as universal national Palestinian consent has been achieved on the basis of the unified political and organizational programme of the Palestine Liberation Organization says the Communist Party's statement released here on the completion of the Palestine National Council's session.

Cancelling the Amman Agreement and restoring national unity under PLO guidance marked a victory for the Palestinian people and its healthy forces, the statement said.

It welcomed the decision of the National Council and the Executive Committee to incorporate the Communist Party as a fighting unit of the Palestine Revolution.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT VISITS SOVIET AIR FORCE UNIT

PM271121 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 87 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Air Force Unit Visit"]

[Text] On 23 April, General M. Chelloufi, secretary general of the Algerian National Defense Ministry, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Defense Ministry, visited an Air Force unit in Kubinka. The Algerian visitor familiarized himself with the military equipment and the life of Soviet airmen. Gen M. Chelloufi was greeted by Colonel General Aviation V.Ye. Pankin, chief of the Air Forces Main Staff.

The Algerian visitor was accompanied by Colonel General Aviation I.M. Maltsev, chief of the Air Defense Forces Main Staff.

U.S.-PILOTED PLANE REPORTEDLY DOWNED IN ANGOLA

LD242010 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Luanda April 24 TASS -- A fighter of the Angolan Air Force brought down a foreign plane last Tuesday over the southern province of Cunene, 160 km away from the city of Lubango. It violated the air space of the country. This was reported today by the ANGOP news agency which quoted statements of representatives of the military command.

According to ANGOP, the plane was manned by a pilot who had on him a passport of a U.S. citizen. Medical assistance was rendered to him. At the moment his life is out of danger.

PETROSYANTS ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION

LD251005 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS -- The contribution of nuclear-power engineering will steadily grow. By the year 1990 the output of electricity at this country's nuclear power stations will have doubled as compared with 1985. Eleven nuclear power stations are currently under construction in the USSR and their number will increase. A TASS correspondent was told by Andranik Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Nuclear Energy.

Naturally, people feel worried in connection with the accident [as received] Petrosyants noted. Yet there is no alternative to nuclear power engineering. Since a nuclear power station operating in normal conditions pollutes the environment ten times less than a thermal power station of the same generating capacity as coal contains radioactive isotope of carbon, which is carried into the atmosphere together with smoke. Consequently, the replacement of thermal power stations with nuclear power stations not only improves the purity of air, but also lessens radioactive contamination.

Touching upon the additional safeguards at the country's nuclear power stations, Petrosyants noted that the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station had demonstrated, in particular, an insufficient speed of response of the emergency protective gear of graphite-moderated reactors.

In the past, safety rods were placed over the reactor's active section, he explained. Now they are introduced into the active section by 70 centimetres. This has made it possible to increase the speed of response of protective gear. Petrosyants said that additional measures to further improve safety standards have been carried out at all the nuclear power stations with reactors similar to those of Chernobyl. These reliable measures will make it possible to exclude the repetition of an accident. Reactor safety has been considerably increased. And it will be ensured even in case of wrong action by the personnel.

Petrosyants said that the training of personnel had been considerably bettered at nuclear power stations. Thus, in particular, mandatory control of the psychological and physiological characteristics of the personnel was introduced. Much attention is devoted to perfecting training equipment, which is to be introduced at all nuclear power stations.

It is also envisaged that in planned power boosts and shutdowns of reactors at nuclear power stations the presence of representatives of the state nuclear energy inspection is mandatory. Their ban on carrying out some or other operations is final.

Touching upon the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, he said that two power units of the station are in operation to their full capacity. They have already generated more than 6,500 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Work has been started on a large scale to decontaminate and inspect the equipment of the third power unit. It will be put on stream after maintenance repairs and additional measures late this year. The construction of the fifth and sixth power units will not be continued.

The state of the fourth power unit, which is reliably isolated from the environment, is under control, Petrosyants pointed out. The decrease of the emanation of heat through radioactive fission is proceeding according to the estimates made by scientists. In November the maximum temperature in the fourth power unit was 140 degrees. It had declined to 98 degrees by April 20 and continues declining. The design of the "sarcophagus" totally excludes the possibility of radioactive substances being released from the damaged reactor into the atmosphere, he said.

Petrosyants noted that the new measures of increasing reliability carried out in graphite-moderated reactors at all nuclear power stations of the country will make it possible to continue their safe operation. Nuclear power engineering on reactors of this type may further develop, he believes. Simultaneously Petrosyants said, a further development of nuclear power engineering in the USSR, the construction of new nuclear power plants will be based on water-cooled water-moderated reactors. The decision to this effect was taken prior to the Chernobyl accident.

Capital investments in the construction of stations on the basis of graphite-moderated reactors are higher than at nuclear power plants with water-cooled, water-moderated reactors, Petrosyants said. Besides, their construction takes more time. Considering all that it has been decided to link the progaramme for further construction of power plants with water-moderated reactors. The construction of the power generating units on the basis of graphite-moderated reactors at the Smolensk, Kursk and Ignalina nuclear power stations is to be completed. But subsequently the construction of nuclear power stations with reactors of that type will be ended.

In conclusion, Petrosyants said that it is planned to start with active international cooperation, work to design a safer thermal neutrons reactor. "Certainly, a reactor in common, with any other equipment, cannot be absolutely safe, he stressed. There is always some risk involved. The most important objective is to reduce that risk to a minimum, while carrying on progress.

CHERNOBYL ANNIVERSARY BRINGS ACTION, STATEMENTS

News Conference in Moscow

LD221628 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1415 GMT 22 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; Report by I. Minayev and A. Zarayelyan on 22 April Moscow news conference given by Minister of Atomic Power N.F. Lukonin; L.A. Ilin, vice president of the Academy of Medical Sciences; and A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the State Committee for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Power; conference chaired by Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] [Announcer] A news conference was held in Moscow today for Soviet and foreign journalists on the problems of eliminating the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl AES.

[Reporter] Almost 1 year has passed since the tragic April day. Today, according to the assessments of specialists, the situation can be completely controlled. The first and second Chernobyl generating sets have been connected into the unified power grid. The third is next in line. Already over 6,500 million kwh of electric power have been generated. At the same time, work on deactivation and preparations for the spring floods are continuing.

[Lukonin] Fifty villages and 13,000 houses with gardens have been built for the evacuated population. In the cities of Kiev and Chernigov 8,000 apartments have been allocated. The new town of (Slavutich) is being built. In the affected territory the level of pollution of drinking water is considerably below the acceptable norms for health. The strategic course regarding the development of atomic power engineering in the USSR remains unchanged. Eleven nuclear power stations are being built, mainly in the European part of the country.

[Unidentified speaker] Bulgarian Telegraph Agency. What is the forecast for the lives and health of the people who have been treated for radiation sickness?

[Ilin] We have lost 28 human lives from acute radiation sickness, from radiation injuries. Two hundred-nine people, of the overall number of 237 whom we diagnosed on the basis of objective data as having acute radiation sickness with varying degrees of severity, 209 people have been cured. The forecast for the lives and health of the 209 people who have been cured is completely favorable. However, we realize that all those people will, naturally, be under increased medical monitoring and attention practically for the rest of their lives.

[Petrosyants] When will the trial of those guilty of the accident at Chernobyl AES begin? It is easier to report that the investigation into those to blame for the Chernobyl accident is being conducted on a very broad basis, and is approaching its end. But it is naturally difficult for me, in any case, to say exactly when the investigation will be finished. That is the business of the procurator's inquiry. But there cannot be, and need not be, any doubt as to the fact that there will be a trial. Where? The trial will take place in the Ukraine. [end recording]

[Reporter] The participants in the meeting answered many questions from journalists.

Reactor Types Changed

LD131736 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] First to Moscow, and the news that the Soviet nuclear energy authorities have decided not to build any more graphite-moderated nuclear reactors of the same type as Chernobyl. Correspondent Kjezl-Albin Abrahamsson reports from Moscow:

[Abrahamsson] The world's biggest nuclear power station, at Ignalina in Lithuania, will not have its extensions completed: That is, the fourth reactor will not be completed as planned. In the beginning it was planned that the reactors would be graphite-moderated, on the same lines as the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, but graphite was abandoned, to be replaced instead by (?water-cooled tubes), which in turn led to other big ecological problems. Released warm water from the (?center) would raise the temperature in adjacent lakes and watercourses.

Ignalina is only 250 to 300 km from the Swedish coast; the construction has caused strong protests in Sweden. It is doubtful, however, whether it was Swedish environmental opinion that led to the abandonment of the construction of the fourth reactor.

There has also been objection to the nuclear power plant in Lithuania, the question has been raised as to why the naturally beautiful Lithuania must be transformed into a big energy producer. Rumors here in Moscow say that Smolensk 4 will not be completed either; but that report cannot be confirmed. Kjell-Albin Abrahamsson, Moscow. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Correspondent (Clas Sjoeberg) also reports from Moscow:

[(Clas Sjoeberg)] Research institutes in Sweden have repeatedly recorded increased amounts of radioactive substances, probably emanating from a reactor. On every occasion the wind was coming from the direction where Ignalina is situated. The reason is thought to be that the Soviet nuclear technicians have been pushing the reactor too hard. It is built for an output of 1,000 megawatts, but at Ignalina the staff, apparently trying to catch up with far too ambitious production plans, have been running the reactor at as much as 50 percent above the power for which it was originally built. This, of course, means increased safety risks.

It was just when the operating staff at Chernobyl experiments with an increase in the reactor's output that the accident happened.

Chernobyl Director on Status

AU242025 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, April 24 (AFP) -- Some residents evacuated from the contaminated zone around the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine where last year's accident took place are returning to [words indistinct] said Friday.

In a phone link-up with Western journalists in Moscow, the plant's director, Mikhail Umanets, who said he was appointed last February 1, also said that radioactive waste from the plant was being dumped inside the contaminated zone.

He said that "specially organised" dumps had been created for the waste, which was cleared in large quantities by bulldozers.

A total of 135,000 residents from 179 villages were evacuated from a 30-kilometre (19 mile) zone around the Chernobyl plant after the explosion and fire last April 26 in its fourth reactor. Thirty people have so far died, according to the official Soviet toll.

Yevgeniy Ignatenko, head of the "Amalgamation Kombinat" which was set up last October in order to "help" the plant's management cope with decontamination problems, said that some elderly people had gone back inside the contaminated zone to homes which were "not absolutely 100 per cent safe." He added that they had been allowed to return "in exceptional cases," but did not elaborate.

The Chernobyl officials explained that the contaminated zone in some places was less than 30 kilometres, and in others more. Therefore there were some villages closer than 30 kilometres to Chernobyl that had never been evacuated.

They said that in addition to the elderly returning to the contaminated areas, all the residents of 16 evacuated villages had been permitted to return, and another 22 villages would soon be ready for people to return home.

The officials said they had not yet assessed whether there would be zones that could never again be inhabited.

The "Amalgamation Kombinat" is notably overseeing the decontamination around the plant, monitoring radiation levels in the area, and is building the new town of Slavutich on the eastern bank of the River Dnepr for Chernobyl staff, which according to TASS news agency will be ready in the autumn.

At present, the main task for this year is building Slavutich and decontaminating the third reactor, closest to the damaged reactor.

They said the sarcophagus entombing the fourth reactor, which is equipped with a special ventilation system, was being constantly monitored. "We are confident the damaged reactor will not provide any surprises," Mr. Umanets said.

The officials reaffirmed that agricultural work had been stopped in the contaminated zone, and farm produce from adjacent regions was checked at source, in the warehouse, and later in the stores and markets.

Mr. Umanets said that of the 4,000 people who were employed at Chernobyl, up to 95 per cent were now back at the plant where reactors one and two are back on stream.

He confirmed that since the accident last year, the only officials who had been replaced were the plant director and the chief engineer.

Concerning the announced trial of those allegedly responsible for the accident, the officials would only say that it would take place in the "nearest future".

Asked about Soviet journalists' complaints of a news blackout on nuclear energy coinciding with the Chernobyl anniversary, the Chernobyl officials joked that their work was being "hampered" by frequent visits.

On Friday, for example, they had seen a U.S. delegation, a Polish correspondent "and now we are speaking with you."

Official on Chernobyl 'Lessons'

AU271138 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 25 Apr 87 p 3

[Werner Pirker dispatch from Moscow: "No Right To Make Mistakes ..."]

[Text] The Chernobyl tragedy, which took place 1 year ago, showed with frightening clarity how great the dangers are that result even from the peaceful use of nuclear energy. What lessons can be learned from this disaster?

The most important lesson is that the human factor must be taken into consideration much more, said Y.N. Filimantsev, who is responsible for reactors in the USSR Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation, which was actually created as a result of the accident. In a nuclear power plant nobody has the right to make a mistake.

In Chernobyl, the operating personnel made a series of mistakes, terrible mistakes in the truest sense of the word, said Filimantsev. These were inconceivable mistakes, which "normally" would be mutually exclusive.

A System That Does Not Break Down... [subhead]

Actions resulting from the disaster include strict control of employees, ongoing checks of their knowledge, and the establishment of a "training camp," where various accident scenarios are repeatedly rehearsed. More important is, of course, the highest possible safety technology. This must be technology that can check even the most abnormal human behavior -- a system that does not break down, not even in a case where all the fuses blow in the staff's minds, stated Filimantsev.

No Withdrawal [subhead]

The Soviet Union never considered a withdrawal from nuclear energy after the Chernobyl tragedy, not even a gradual withdrawal, said Filimentsev. The accident can only result in an increase in safety. This was also made clear to the delegation of the Greens Party of the FRG, who paid a visit to the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation. The accident happened because the most elementary human logic had not been followed.

Alternative Forms of Energy [subhead]

Asked whether the Soviet Union is searching for alternative forms of energy, V. Pashevich, deputy head of the ministry's research department, said that such research integrating sun, wind, small rivers, and the tides into the system of energy production was started quite some time ago. But this is not very economical since it is very difficult to connect these sources with the general energy supply network. In Moscow there is an institute for research into nonconventional forms of energy; very intensive work is done there in this respect. "According to our predictions, the proportion of these new energy sources can reach only 3 or 4 percent," says Pashevich. Therefore, alternative energy sources are no alternative to nuclear energy.

Acceptable risk [subhead]

But is the question only one of economy or of technology and not also one of ethics? Is everything permitted that can be done? Does Chernobyl not pose the question of a nonacceptable risk? Is it permissible to use nuclear energy without 100-percent, even 1,000 percent, sure that nothing will happen?

The consequence of such thoughts, Filimantsev retorts, wouud be not to let any planes get off the ground. Is the risk acceptable in that case? Then one would also have to ban chemistry. The accident at Bhopal, for instance, claimed many more lives than the Chernobyl accident. If one calculated the damage to the environment and to human life, all accidents in nuclear power plants do not reach by far the amount of damage done by power plants using coal -- also with regard to long-term effects on people's health. Furthermore, acid rain, not just radioactivity, also crosses borders, Filimantsev pointed out.

Therefore, the question of what was learned from Chernobyl is not so much a question of changing one's thinking on nuclear energy, but one of changing one's thinking in general. It is a question of personal responsibility. The more developed the producer goods, the more the producers are faced with the need to control and to master them. Not to accept this responsibility, to delegate it, to rely on others, can have disastrous consequences.

The lessons of Chernobyl are reflected in the tasks of perestroyka [Russian term used]. It is also necessary to feel responsible for the survival of mankind.

Chernobyl only hinted at the danger that can result from man's losing control of the atom. To find a new way of thinking would be the most important consequence of the tragedy that occurred a year ago in a small Ukranian town.

'No Apprehensions' in Ukraine

AU221517 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 15 Apr 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "A Meeting With Journalists"]

[Text] Problems concerning the protection of the population's health, the quality of drinking water and foodstuffs, and other topics which interest people in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES were at the center of attention of participants in a news conference held in the Ukrainian Ministry of Health on 13 April. During the conference it was pointed out that the radiation situation in the city of Kiev, in Kiev Oblast, and in the republic at large did not arouse any apprehensions. The comprehensive system of control and the measures taken to protect the River Dnepr against the flow of flood waters have guaranteed the river's purity. Foodstuffs supplied to stores and markets continue to be carefully checked. No deviations from the set norms have been recorded.

V.M. Kozlyuk, chief of the Main Therapeutic and Prophylactic Aid Administration under the Ukrainian Ministry of Health; Professor V.G. Bebeshko, director of the Clinical Radiology Institute of the All-Union Scientific Center for Radiological Medicine under the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences; M.S. Mukharskiy, deputy chief of the Main Sanitary Epidemiological Administration under the Ukrainian Ministry of Health; Professor B.S. Prister, chief of the radiological biology department at the Ukrainian Veterinary Scientific Research Institute; and other specialist physicians informed journalists in detail about the work which was and continues to be carried out by the republic's medical establishments to protect people's health and to surround them with a system of clinics.

Official on Flood Preparation

PM161044 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Apr 87 p 13

[Interview with Colonel General A.I. Bezotosov, USSR civil defense chief of staff and first deputy chief of civil defense, by Major Vladimir Miroshnichenko, correspondent of the Kiev Military District newspaper LENINSKOYE ZNAMYE: "Chernobyl Prepares for the Spring Floods" -- first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] For 11 months intensive work has been under way to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. In recent days, difficult, diverse operations in preparation for the spring floods have been added to the many concerns and troubles of those involved in these dramatic events. [paragraph continues]

The high waters have always been a test for people, but this year the problems are exacerbated by the need as far as possible to prevent the penetration of radioactive particles into the rivers of the Dnepr basin....

All over the Ukraine, people are preparing for the spring floods. But how do things stand in the region of the Chernobyl AES? At LITERATURNAYA GAZETA's request, our colleague Major Vladimir Miroshnichenko, correspondent of the Kiev Military District newspaper LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA, put this and other questions to Colonel General A.I. Bezotosov, USSR civil defense chief of staff and first deputy chief of civil defense.

[Bezotosov] The flood commission set up by the Kiev Oblispolkom commenced its activity by coordinating the efforts of approximately 10 organizations. Naturally, the main burden of the work to prepare for the spring floods fell upon people in soldiers' uniforms.... The flood commission has already fulfilled some of their plans: Water conduits and approaches to bridges have been cleared, snow retention measures have been carried out in the fields, emergency rescue detachments have been formed, and powerful equipment has been prepared. An icebreaker and groups of explosives experts are being prepared in case of an ice jam on the Pripyat River.

The main task for the engineering troops is the preparation of existing hydroengineering systems and the construction of new ones. At present, in the flood plains of the Pripyat, Uzh, Braginka, Zhelon Rivers, and others there are 135 barrages and dams with a total length of more than 40 km. Their construction required a huge volume of earthworks. Moreover, emergency stocks of sand, ballast, and rubble have been created near each water protection structure.

[Miroshnichenko] On visiting the Chernobyl AES region, I saw for myself that a great deal has been done. But the elements are treacherous and can catch people unawares. A sudden thaw, for intstance....

[Bezotosov] Of course, nature can bring surprises, which may be of the most unpleasant kind. We must be ready for them. The air and land reconnaissance work is constantly under way in the special zone. We are monitoring the flood water situation and the condition of the dams. If they cause alarm, the command will be given immediately by radio, and emergency rescue detachments and powerful equipment will be sent to the danger area. We have made preparations as far as possible to prevent radioactive particles from the special zone from flowing out with the flood waters. That is one of the main tasks for the servicemen taking part in the elimination of the accident's consequences, and for the chemical surveillance workers in particular. . . .

[Miroshnichenko] The level of radioactive contamination of the locality has fallen considerably compared with the past, especially compared with what it was in the special zone in May. Yet controls on the roads have been stepped up. Why?

[Bezctosov] This measure indicates the improved organizational and technical level of our work. Remember the alarming days of May. At that time we controlled the situation on the roads with difficulty. [paragraph continues]

First, there was an enormous flow of vehicles leading the special zone, and, second, technical equipment was not of the best. Today, now that the situation on the roads has stabilized and the chemical specialist troops have received the most up-to-date equipment, it is possible to repeatedly check machinery and apply special treatment to it. Whereas before this required much time, now the delay at the special treatment point is a matter of minutes. Everything is being done to ensure complete safety in the Chernobyl region.

PRAVDA UKRAINY ON DNEPROPETROVSK OBKOM PLENUM

AU271321 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 21 Apr 87 p 2

[RATAU report: "A Dnepropetrovsk Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] A plenum of Dnepropetrovsk Obkom was held 20 April. One organizational issue was examined. The plenum relieved Comrade B.G. Boyko of the duties of obkom first secretary for violating the principle of collectiveness in the obkom bureau, for serious shortcomings in workstyle, and for errors in cadre selection.

V.A. Ivashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and secretary, was elected Dnepropetrovsk Obkom first secretary.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, participated in the obkom proceedings and delivered a speech.

This plenum noted the unfavorable situation which had emerged in the oblast's economy. The first-quarter plan for the main index -- the sales of products, including supplies to industry -- was only fulfilled 97.5 percent. Twenty-five percent of the enterprises fell short of the targets for supply obligations. The shortfall in the sales of products totaled R89 million. Compared with the corresponding period in 1986, the output of a number of production items declined. The plan for profits and prime costs was not fulfilled.

The main cause of the shortfall was unsatisfactory preparation for work in the winter season and for the acceptance of products by the state. The situation was aggravated by shortcomings in production organization, and by the inability of some party, administrative, and economic leaders to work under the new management conditions. To cope with the tasks, for 1987, it is necessary to ensure an increase in the overall volume of commodity output by a minimum of 2.9 percent. This task is not easy, but it is possible. Everything possible must be done to accomplish it. Unfortunately, at a number of metallurgical combines -- particularly at the F.E. Dzerzhinskiy combine -- and at most machine building plants, the production of consumer goods has been unsatisfactory in April.

More attention must be paid to a means for intensifying as important as the reconstruction and technical reequipment of enterprises. The way in which allocations for this are being used is not reasonable everywhere. In a number of cases, reconstruction is not being carried out comprehensively and is using obsolete plans. This is the case at 1/4 of the ferrous metallurgical units, and at individual chemical and construction enterprises.

What matters now is to make sure that equipment operates without breakdowns, and makes full use of production capacities. Measures must be taken to hasten the process of switching a number of enterprises over to multi-shift operations. [paragraph continues]

In this respect, until now there has been more talk than action. The equipment shift intensity factor is only 1.42. Machine tools with digital programmed control, automatic and semi-automatic machines, forging and pressing machines are operating at less than 1.5 shifts.

It was emphasized that the obkom had not been exacting enough, and had not made enterprise and association leaders strictly accountable for the quality and competitiveness of articles. The fact that nearly 50 percent of the associations and plants do not put modern advanced items into production must not be tolerated. In the first quarter of the current year, the production of articles bearing the mark of quality declined.

A comprehensive system was developed and put into effect in the oblast to control production quality and the effective use of resources. The results were good, but after some time this system was forgotten, and the levels achieved were surrendered.

The situation in capital construction is also cause for serious concern, and considerable irregularities were permitted in the work of railroad and industrial transportation.

This confirms once again that, in the work performed by the obkom, there are many omissions, people are not properly consistent and persistent. The obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms must pay much more attention to the work of industrial, construction, and transport enterprises. This particularly applies to Comrade A.A. Mironenko, obkom secretary; to the corresponding obkom departments; and to Comrades S.V. Droboshevskiy and A.Ye. Stolbchenko, oblispolkom deputy chairmen.

The plenum called the task to significantly step up grain output the main task facing the agro-industrial complex. The growth in overall yields planned by the oblast's farms for the current year is insufficient, even if one takes into account the complex condition of winter crops. All possibilities must be exhausted to increase the yields of spring crops; it is essential to emphasize corn, and to harvest in the current year 1.5 million tons of corn grain, or 38-40 quintals per hectare. The campaign has to be organized in such a way as to complete the sowing of early grain within a few days, to time late crops sowing well, and to tend sowed areas well.

More attention must be paid to sunflowers because the plans for purchasing sunflower seeds have been systematically underfulfilled. The CPSU Central Committee has endorsed measures to meet the country's needs for vegetable oil, including motivating kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and promoting the oil and fat extracting industry. Full use has to be made of additional possibilities to fulfill the 1987 plan, and the 5-year plans as a whole without fail.

The second equally important task is to see to it the production and procurements of stockbreeding produce continue to grow and their supply to the population improves. Although in recent years the oblast's stockbreeding has been developing steadily, in the first quarter the situation significantly deteriorated. It is enough to say that the oblast was the only one in the republic to make fewer meat purchases than in 1986. Daily milk yields were also smaller than last year. All this was a result of the unsatisfactory organization of feed production. Leaders of farms, rayon agro-industrial associations, the oblast agro-industrial committee; Comrade A.I. Sytnik, the latter's chairman; and Comrade I.T. Kozak, obkom secretary, must remedy the situation without delay so that in the current year livestock is well provided with coarse and juicy feed at each kolkhoz and sovkhoz. Completely insufficient attention has been paid in the oblast to efforts to increase meat production at subsidiary rural farms run by industrial enterprises, and poor use has been made of the possibilities of citizens' private holdings.

There are also serious defects and omissions in trade and consumer services. In the first quarter of 1987, the sales of commodities to the population fell short of the plan. Consumer service enterprises also underfulfilled the plan. These issues have been regularly handled perfunctorily by Comrade Yu. P. Babich; oblispolkom chairman; Comrade A.I. Gergel, his deputy; Comrade N.K. Zadoya; obkom second secretary; and by the corresponding obkom departments. The attitude taken by leaders of many trade and service enterprises toward the matter at hand has been irresponsible.

It was noted that, in preparation for discussing tasks stemming from the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum at obkom plenums and basic party organization meetings, it was necessary to thoroughly and critically scrutinize situations and specific results of restructuring in gorkoms, raykoms, party organizations, administrative and economic bodies, and to strengthen leadership in lagging sectors. Members of elective organs are expected to take the most active part in this work, to analyze the state of affairs in every sector in adherence to principles, to evaluathe their part in restructuring and accelerating in a self-critical manner, and to make constructive proposals to eliminate existing shortcomings.

Those taking the floor at the plenum were: N.K. Zadoya, obkom second secretary; Yu. P. Babich, oblispolkom chairman; I.N. Molodets, miners team leader at the Marganets ore mining and concentration combine; I.A. Kovalenko, Krinichanskiy Raykom first secretary; V.S. Kostogryzov, clerk of the works at the building mechanization administrationn No 1 of the Dnepropetrovsk construction mechanization trust; A.S. Stezhko, Krivoy Rog Gorkom first secretary; and Yu. N. Taran-Zhovnir, member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and rector of the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Institute.

The plenum participants resolved to raise the level of all organizational and political work and on this basis to ensure that the important and complex tasks confronting the oblast party organization in implementing the decisions of the 27th Party Congress and the CPSCU Central Committee January Plenum are successfully accomplished.

During his visit to Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, met obkom bureau and Verkhnedneprovskiy Raykom members. The meeting participants examined some questions concerning party leadership in the economy, the 1986 results of economic activity, and the progress made in fulfilling the 1987 plans and pledges. The need was empahsized to make fuller use of the oblast's economic, scientific, and cadre potential, and to increase the oblast's part in developing the country's national economy. An important condition for accelerating the restructuring now taking place, in line with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, in all spheres of life is to continually improve the workstyle of party committees, and to strengthen their role as organs of political leadership. In particu;ar, it is essential to strictly observe the principle of collectiveness in the work of committees, to thoroughly study public opinion, and to concentrate efforts on the key issues of decisive importance for achieving the final result.

In the discussion, particular attention was paid to the development of the social sphere, to improvements in cultural, trade, and consumer services. It was emphasized that the work could only be accelerated if party, administrative, and economic bodies take care of people in the foreground. For this purpose it is essential to more energetically eliminate the existing major problems in accomplishing social tasks, and to resolutely restructure work.

MOSCOW FORUM DISCUSSES INDIVIDUAL LABOR

LD220959 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] As is known, from 1 May this year the Law on Individual Labor Activity comes into force. A session of the Moscow Gorispolkom today examined the question as to how the capital has prepared for this. Our correspondent Aleksey Yermilov has been at the session. This is what he reports:

[Yermilov] To all appearances more has been done to organize individual labor activity in Moscow than in many other towns. But so far the compiling of an inventory of nonresidential premises which could be set aside for leasing has not been completed -- on the whole the question of premises is a difficult one. Data regarding equipment which could be made available to citizens has not been received in full from industrial enterprises. There is some data regarding production waste and substandard products which skilled workmen could use. People want to, and can, sew, knit, repair, build, transport, and (?mend).

Special commissions which have been set up now in each rayon and the main commission in the Moscow Gorispolkom must -- they are obliged -- to help them. A great deal, if not everything, depends on these commissions. And wher one has succeeded in gathering energetic, enterprising, expert, bold people, things will certainly take off.

The information service advertising should be run very efficiently. Well, (?what) use is it if bicycles can be repaired somewhere if you and I don't know about it.

There is one more aspect: Even though the activity is individual there should be some contact between these people; an elementary exchange of experience and knowledge. Things should be set up so that people can seek each other's advice. On the whole we need as much information and openness as possible.

However, so far there has only been a few applications from people wishing to engage in individual labor activity; there are a few. here is how this is explained by Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov, Moscow Gorispolkom deputy chairman, who met with journalists.

[Begin recording] [Luzhkov] The small number of applications is connected in the first place with the fact that so far Muscovites don't know about the cost of licenses. Today, this is becoming known. We have passed on the cost of licenses to the executive committees of the rayon soviets. The cost of licenses varies of course. The cost of a new kind of services, the so-called private taxi is R560 per year. I think that that is a perfectly acceptable price.

Questions of the marketing of output produced by persons who engage in individual labor have been solved. First, trading on markets will be expanded. The decision has been made to organize day-off trade fairs. Consignment trade problems still remain. Of course, these are primarily problems of production waste.

We need more do it yourself specialized shops. Things should be organized so that each rayon has such a shop without fail, where one can purchase production waste, substandard output, and some interesting components which can be sold by persons engaged in individual labor more freely and widely. [paragraph continues]

In the next few days a specialized exhibition-trade fair for production waste is to open in Dom 30, Frunzenskaya Naberezhnaya. These are large premises where all secondary resources and production waste will be on display. A person who has a license, a certificate of registration, or a representative of cooperative shops, as well as representatives of our state industrial enterprises can go there, inspect this waste and request enterprises to sell this waste direct.

[Yermilov] This is so to speak their [word indistinct] but with what? What equipment can be used by those who want to engage in individual labor activity? Where can they obtain, say, in the way of machinetools, or elementary implements and tools?

[Luzhkov] We are compiling an inventory, which is nearly complete, of equipment at enterprises which can be made available to persons with a license -- only to people who purchase a license. This is understandable. Perhaps on lease; or in a few cases we will even permit this equipment to be used at enterprises during the second and third shift. Of course this raises questions, questions of equipment safety; but I think that we must overcome them. [end recording]

MVD CHIEF AMONG OUSTED BELGOROD OFFICIALS

PM271725 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Apr 87 First Edition p 2

[Response from A. Ponomarev, first secretary of Belgorod CPSU Obkom, under the rubric "Answering Criticism": "Irrespective of Rank"]

[Text] The Belgorod CPSU Obkom reports that the article "Degradation" published in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 5 April 1987 was discussed by the party obkom bureau. The newspaper rightly criticized shortcomings in cadre work in the oblast party organization.

Indeed, in recent years certain leading workers in soviet, economic, and law enforcement organs -- including former Oblispolkom Chairman Surkov -- had flagrantly violated the norms of party life, permitted abuses of their service position for selfish ends, and enjoyed immoral lifestyles.

All the former leaders named in the article -- Surkov, Drygin, Shevchenko, Yushinov, Nikitenko, Savenko, Kondratyev, and Yayloyan -- have been expelled from the party and removed from their posts; some are currently undergoing criminal proceedings.

Nikulin, rector of an agricultural institute, was removed from his post, strictly reprimanded, and had his party card endorsed.

The CPSU obkom bureau noted that the shortcomings noted in the article were possible largely because of the lack of control and the low demandingness shown toward cadres by certain obkom secretaries, obkom departments, the CPSU obkom party control commission, and the Belgorod City, Oktyabrskiy, and Sverdlovskiy party raykoms in Belgorod City.

The CPSU obkom bureau reprimanded N.V. Garmashov and endorsed his party card for his serious shortcomings in selecting, placing, and educating leading cadres in the trade sector and for the lack of control and low demandingness he had shown toward them -- which led to flagrant violations of Soviet trade regulations and abuses of service position for selfish ends by officials.

V.G. Gerasimov, CPSU obkom secretary, and L.Ye. Blagasov, chief of the CPSU obkom administrative organs department, were reprimanded and had their party cards endorsed for their serious shortcomings in work with law enforcement organ cadres and their uncritical assessment of their actions.

Oblast prosecutor A.I. Ivanov was strictly reprimanded for his inadequate control of the work of his subordinate prosecutors and for poorly monitoring the activities of internal affairs organs.

CPSU obkom secretary A.T. Gnilitskiy was reprimanded for his poor work in selecting leading agro-industrial complex cadres and inculcating moral and political qualities into them.

G.N. Botsmanov, chief of the CPSU obkom party organization work department, and V.P. Kriushin, chairman of the CPSU obkom party control commission, were reprimanded for their superficial approach to checking the reports about the cases of former oblispolkom chairman Surkov's undignified behavior and abuses.

A.M. Gridchin, first secretary of Belgorod CPSU Gorkom, and V.M. Kozlov and Ye.S. Ilina, first secretaries of Oktyabrskiy and Sverdlovskiy CPSU Raykoms in Belgorod City, were reprimanded for their poor control of the activities of primary party organizations attached to oblast administrations and services. They were instructed to examine the question of responsibility of the secretaries of those primary party organizations in which leading Communists permitted the most flagrant violations of the demands of the CPSU Rules and compromised themselves.

Obkom departments and CPSU gorkoms and raykoms were instructed to fundamentally improve their work with leading cadres in the light of the demands of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and to make more active use of democratic initiatives in questions of their selection and placement.

At the same time we believe it is necessary to bring to the attention of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial office the fact that in recent years the CPSU obkom bureau has been resolutely and persistently striving to strengthen order, organization, and discipline and has been making principled assessments of all cases of deviation from the norms of communist morality.

There were indeed indications of Surkov's incorrect behavior. Since they were anonymous and contained no specific facts or details it was very difficult to check and confirm them. Surkov received a warning from the bureau and people talked to him about the existing indications. He categorically rejected the accusations and considered them defamatory.

In 1983, after an appeal to the party obkom by former workers at the "Dmitrotaranosvkiy" Sovkhoz, criminal proceedings relating to abuses were instigated on the obkom bureau's initiative against Grigorov, former director of the sovkhoz. It was necessary to overcome opposition from certain workers at the prosecutor's office and internal affairs organs. As a result of an examination of Grigorov's abuses the unseemly actions of Surkov, Drygin, Nikitenko, Yayloyan, and other officials came to light. It was only possible to expose their double lives -- which they had hidden skillfully and painstakingly -- with the help of experienced officials in the investigation organs.

These misdemeanors, and those of certain other former leading workers in the oblast, received a principled assessment in the obkom bureau and plenum, in CPSU raykoms, and in primary party organizations. [paragraph continues]

This was extensively reported in the local press.

The CPSU obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms are drawing the corresponding conclusions from the criticism in the article "degradation" and are focusing their efforts on improving cadre selection, placement, and education, enhancing cadres' responsibility for their assignments, and developing the production and political activeness of the oblast's labor collectives. [Ponomarev ends]

A reply has also been received from the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. Deputy Minister Yu. Zhurkin reports:

The details about the violation of socialist legality by V.A. Shevchenko, chief of the Belgorod Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration, and his former deputy V.S. Yushinov described in the article "Degradation" were entirely correct.

It has been established that to please N.A. Surkov, former chairman of the ispolkom against whom subsequently criminal proceedings were instituted as a result of various crimes in public office, V.A. Shevchenko and V.S. Yushino failed to take timely action to stop car deal machinations and other crimes in public office and that they themselves embarked on the road of crude violations.

In August 1985 citizen Drygin, dirctor of the "Belgorodskiy" Sovkhoz, came to the Internal Affairs Administration and confessed to embezzlement of socialist property and bribe-taking. Through the fault of V.A. Shevchenko and V.S. Yushinov, this statement was not officially registered for a long time, urgent measures to verify the correctness of the statement were not taken, and its author was unjustifiably placed in a psychoneurological clinic. They committed similar violations in connection with materials about the swindling activities of citizen Troshkina, who obtained more than R190,000 from citizens through deception.

The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Collegium discussed the events in Belogorod Oblast on 10 April this year, subjected them to a principled assessment, and adopted a decision to relieve V.A. Shevchenko of his post and to dismiss him from the internal affairs organs.

At the same time the wording of V.S. Yushinov's discharge has been changed to discrediting reasons with the curtailment of his pension.

The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is adopting measures to strengthen leading cadres in the Belogorod Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration, enhance their exactingness, and reinforce supervision of the strict observance of socialist legality in the activity of internal affairs organs.

PRAVDA CITES LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS COMMISSIONS

PM221458 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Guarding Against Unearned Income: At the Standing Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Chambers"]

[Text] Among the most important tasks in the conditions of restructuring is the protection of socialist property and the struggle against all kinds of selfish abuses, thriftlessness, and extravagance. [paragraph continues]

This was stated at a joint session of the Legislative Proposals Standing Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities, held 20 April. The question of the practical application of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On Stepping Up the Struggle Against Unearned Income" in the Chechen-Ingush ASSR was discussed.

The commissions noted that some work is being done in this direction in the autonomous republic, certain measures are being implemented to improve trade and consumer services to the population, openness is becoming wider, and the role of labor collectives and the public in the struggle against unearned income is increasing.

At the same time a marked improvement has not been achieved in the cause of protecting the people's property and closing avenues for the squandering of embezzlement of state and public property. Deputies draw attention to the fact that at may enterprises accounting and reporting are neglected, proper safeguarding of raw materials and output is not ensured, and the responsibility of economic leaders for the preservation of socialist property is low. Infringement of the law are especially widespread in the agro-industrial complex, consumer cooperatives, construction, transport, trade, and consumer services. The struggle against overreporting and deception is being only feebly waged in the autonomous republic, and the rules of land use and the keeping of livestock on citizens' personal plots are frequently broken. Work on providing employment for persons not employed in social production is organized in an entirely unsatisfactory way.

In the resolution adopted, the Chechen-Ingush ASSR Supreme Soviet Presidum and Council of Ministers and the local soviets are advised to elaborate and implement additional measures of an economic, organizational, educational, and legal character so as to guard reliably against unearned income.

The session of the commissions also heard a briefing on the course of fulfillment of the 14 February 1986 USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution "On the Execution by State Organs in Vinnitsa Oblast of Legislation Aimed at Overcoming Drunkenness."

The session was conducted by G.P. Razumovskiy, chairman of the Soviet of the Union Legislative Proposals Commission and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Taking part in the commissions' work were P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidum, and G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

FORMER CHIMKENT OFFICIAL DISMISSED FROM PARTY

LD272323 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The former first secretary of the Chimkent regional Communist Party Committee in Kazakhstan, Askarov has been expelled from the party for violations of social justice principles, for nepotism and personal gain. A huge mansion built for him on government funds has become a holiday facility for workers and farmers. A TASS correspondent reports from Kazakhstan that some 400 such homes which use to be the property of former senior officials in that republic, have been returned to the public over the last 2 months alone.

MEDVEDEV SPEAKS TO WORKERS IN AZERBAIJAN

LD262219 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] A meeting took place today between the working people of Sabirabadskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan, and Comrade Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Those speaking at the meeting emphasized that the working people of the rayon, like all working people in the republic, are determined to make their contribution to the cause of restructuring and acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development. The speakers shared with their USSR Supreme Soviet deputy their concerns and their unsolved problems.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade Medvedev said: Our party and the Soviet people are preparing to mark the jubilee of Great October wholly in accordance with the behests of Vladimir Ilich Lenin with a realistic assessment of the achievements and concentrating attention on what still remains to be done. The analysis of the country's socioeconomic development made by the CPSU Central Committee April 1985 Plenum and the 27th party congress, and then the Central Committee January Plenum showed that this is in need of acceleration, on the basis of a profound restructuring, and democratization of all spheres of social life.

The emergence of manifestations of stagnation, and the accumulation of difficulties and unresolved problems could, in the past, occur only in conditions where there was restriction of glasnost [openess], criticism and self-criticism, control by the masses. Frequently the people were not consulted, their voice was not always heeded, account was not taken of the people's opinion. Some leaders conceived a fear of looking reality in the face and of speaking the language of truth. A taste for ostentiatious enterprises and laudatory speeches emerged. Propaganda was addressed more to reminiscences and to the past than to the vital problems of life. A circle of leaders was formed who had placed themselves in the sphere of public criticism. Their rare meetings with the working people were surrounded by pomp and were conducted according to a scenario written out in advance. Toadying and nepotism flourished, which led to a degeneration of cadres. People grew accustomed to this phenomenon. Such things were accepted as the norm, our public consciousness ceased to react to them.

Of course, a presentiment of frustration and civic anxiety arose in the party and society; many understood that it was high time to open up the sluice gates and let loose the force which had been accumulating for decades, to give scope to fresh ideas and to the living creativity of the masses. This was indeed done after the CPSU Central Committee April Plenum.

The question of the party's attitude to criticism is assuming particular importance at the present stage. The experience of the past demonstrated sufficiently clearly that restriction of criticism, the formation of zones banned for the people's eye, and of a sort of caste of inviolable leaders, and rose-colored and only laudatory propaganda, were among the basic reasons which led to stagnation and to negative tendencies in various spheres of social life.

However, a critical attitude to one's own actions is, according to Marx, a law for every revolutionary party. An exacting and impartial evaluation of the mistakes of the past is, in the final analysis, a constructive trend. It is well known that without truth there is no justice, civic spirit, or democracy; without truth, a high level of morality cannot exist.

We are all witnesses to the way that, thanks to an example of honest and veracious attitude on the part of the party to the past and to matters in society -- the orator stressed -- we have succeeded in literally stirring up the masses, even those who were previously distant from politics, and making them active participants in restructuring. The truth expands and deepens the social base of restructuring and uses the main character in society, our Soviet people, to resolve the tasks of restructuring.

Having dwelt upon matters relating to restructuring, and new methods and forms of organising work, Comrade Medvedev stressed that it is necessary to create the conditions that will stimulate technical progress, an improvement in the quality of output, will best satisfy needs, encourage the diligent, creative worker, and at the same time punish idlers and self-seekers, the unconscientious workers. How are we to get this? First and foremost we have to put an end to the wage levelling factor, and the fear of paying a person in full what he has earned. The Leninist principle of financial autonomy has been called upon to play an important role in this. It is particularly necessary to take agriculture into account. It is important to encourage forms of work that leave peasants with more independence, and a broad scope to introduce not only team contracting, but also family, individual, financial autonomy.

The main thing now, in continuing and deepening the analysis of the real problems of our development, is to cast the party's policies and the energy of restructuring into practical deeds, and secure real, tangible improvements for the people, real results in economic development and particularly in the social sphere. All our efforts, all the political, organizational, and ideological work of party organizations should now be directed toward this.

The speaker considered those positive improvements that have occurred in the socioeconomic development of the country, stressing that they not turned into a stable trend. The results of the first quarter of this year have showed that in January and partially in February serious failures occurred in machine-building, the light industry, and the trade network, resulting in a rather strained situation in the national economy. It follows from this that new methods of economic management have to be even more quickly and persistently introduced. Herein is the key to resolving topical national economy tasks.

Examining the problems of Azerbaijan's socioeconomic development, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out that the republic had entered the new 5-year period with the chronic illnesses of which it had still not been fully able to rid itself. The 5-year plan was not fulfilled in heavy industry; such priority industries as machine-building, electronics, and instrument-building are lagging behind in their development. An alarming situation has come about in the agro-industrial complex, too, which accounts for almost 40 percent of the republic's gross product. The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat recently assessed how unsatisfactory the work is in developing a base for reprocessing and storage of produce in Azerbaijan SSR agro-industrial complex. Serious damage has been inflicted upon the development of the food industry and its raw material base through the one-sided orientation toward expanding viticulture. Such a course has led to serious lagging in those spheres of the food industry which should most satisfy the population's requirements.

The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee drew the correct conclusions from the criticism. At the plenum in March, it was decided to make a radical change in the structural policy in the agro-industrial complex, and to accelerate the development of the base for reprocessing and storage of agricultural produce.

The struggle against infringement of the people's property, against bribe-taking, corruption, over-charging and non-labor income has recently markedly increased in the republic. However, the CPSU Central Committee is continuing to receive quite a few letters from the republic about crude abuses in trading, health care, educational institutions, complaints about lack of action by local and republican organs and about persecution for criticism. Many of these complaints were corroborated.

Touching upon international policy issues, Vadim Andreyevich Medvedev stressed that the concept of a new political thinking in international affairs put forward by the Soviet Union derives from the necessity to ensure the security of all countries and peoples and to attain a nuclear-free peace on the planet. In implementing this concept, the USSR relies upon the mighty power of mass democratic and antiwar movements, and upon the friends and countries of the world system of socialism. Relations with the socialist countries are the priority line in our foreign policy. We cannot think of ourselves outside the world of socialism and outside close reciprocity with the fraternal countries.

The current period can rightly be termed a crucial one in mutual relations in the world of socialism. Over the past decades it has become a mighty international formation, with a ramified system of mutual links. However, the forms and methods of cooperation which have become established, which corresponded to the period when it arose as a world system, no longer answer to modern possibilities and requirements.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech in Prague pointed out those principles we regard as being of paramount importance: in political mutual relations, a combination of complete equality and at the same time mutual responsibility; in economic ties, mutual advantage and assistance; in international affairs, coordination of action, alongside active initiative on the part of every state; in dialogue, the growing importance of exchange of experience in socialist construction.

It is in the spirit of these principles that we have started the process of developing new relations with fraternal countries, a process which in essence can also be called restructuring.

Going toward the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, said Comrade Medvedev in conclusion, socialism is revealing increasingly fully its possibilities and is confidently gathering strength. Its movement is invincible. It is always hard for pioneers, but one thing is clear: A choice has been made and the correct course has been formulated. The party will not depart from it. Now practical deeds are needed.

During his stay in Azerbaijan from 24 to 26 April, Comrade Medvedev visited industrial, agricultural and services sector enterprises. There was talk of problems and prospects for developing the economy and cultural life, of satisfying more fully the demands of the population, of restructuring work, raising the level of responsibility for the matter at hand at a meeting between Comrade Medvedev and members of the Central Committee Bureau of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan.

KIRGHIZ COMMUNISTS DISCUSS JANUARY PLENUM RESULTS

PM211439 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent Yu. Razgulyayev report: "To Overcome Inertia. Kirghiz Communists Discuss the Results of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum"]

[Text] Frunze -- Serious deviations from the Leninist norms of part life in Kirghizia have already been written about repeatedly: promotion of cadres on the basis of kinship, hometown ties, and personal devotion; immunity and impunity of individual retainers; friendship and nepotism which gave rise to a web of mutual covering up. A consequence of these deviations has been stagnation in the economy. The [republic's] national economic profitability had been falling continuously in recent years. Social questions -- the availability of housing, kindergartens, and hospitals -- were becoming increasingly acute. Conversely, vast sums were spent on magnificent prestige projects.

All these are quite recent things. It would be naive to think that the problems which slowed down the republic's development have already been solved in just over a year. Has restructuring begun in Kirghizia? How is the inertia of mistakes being overcome? The participants in the recent republic Communist Party Central Committee plenum endeavored to investigate many questions.

Unhurried Acceleration [subhead]

Many Communists at the plenum used this not very complimentary epithet to describe the beginning of the 12th 5-Year Plan. Of course, the report delivered by A. Masaliyev, first secretary of the republic Communist Party Central Committee, also cited data on certain progress. In 1986, for example, the target for growth in the volumes of construction of housing and social and consumer projects was fulfilled. Quite recently these figures would have been perfectly adequate for a salutary report.

But at this plenum the discussion was more strict and exacting. Communists focused attention on the fact that, while volume indicators have generally been fulfilled in recent years, consumer goods production has fallen. Industrial enterprises, particularly in the Light Industry Ministry, constantly fail to make contracted deliveries. There are many unsolved problems in agriculture. In Osh Oblast, for example, 31 farms incurred losses of R 19 million last year instead of making a profit.

Why, then, is such poor and inefficient use being made of the solid potential accumulated in industry and the agro-industrial complex? The plenum pointed out that there is one reason for this: There are weak and incompetent cadres in a number of sectors of economic, soviet, and party building.

V. Lyubimova, milkmaid on Panfilovskiy Rayon's "Kelechek" Kolkhoz, and A. Skidanov, fitter of the Kirghiz Drilling Work Administration, spoke at the plenum about the passiveness and indifference of many party workers toward people's needs and toward solving acute social questions. Unfortunately, there is good cause for this. The 13-percent increase in the pace of housing construction over the year is today regarded in the republic as a real achievement. Yet this pace must be increased at least 150 percent to resolve the party's strategic social task.

A. Dzhumagulov, chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, spoke self-critically about low exactingness toward leading cadres. Many ministers, directors, and chairmen do not know how to organize highly efficient production and are accustomed to fulfilling the plan "at all costs." According to reports, three-fourths of State Agro-Industrial Committee subdivisions have switched to the contract method in the 12th 5-Year Plan. However, a large proportion of them are working at a loss.

Enthusiasts Needed [subhead]

In the past 2 months almost all republic and oblast newspapers have been carrying materials on elections of leaders in issue after issue. Kirghiz working people have greeted the democratization of cadre policy with understanding and approval. Elections have been held in a number of VUZ's in the capital, on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and at industrial enterprises. Competitive appointment has become particularly widespread in the agroindustrial complex. As A. Khrestenkov, first secretary of the Issyk-Kul Party Obkom, reported at the plenum, approximately 400 specialists and middle-link leaders have already been elected there.

A good thing? Of course. But you will not solve all cadre problems by elections alone. In Osh Oblast's Aravansky Rayon, for example, 17 candidates ran at once for the post of hospital chief doctor. Are there really so many trained specialists there?

Unfortunately, practice attests to the reverse. Some 10-15 farm leaders are confirmed and dismissed at every Central Committee Bureau session. One in three is dismissed for negative reasons. Today, it was pointed out at the plenum, more than 20 percent of directors and chairmen work for less than a year.

Definite experience of work with the reserve for filling leading posts has been accumulated in the city of Frunze. Interesting forms of cadre work are used in Issyk-Atinskiy Party Raykom and Tokmak Gorkom. But this is the exception rather than the rule. The majority of party committees have let training of the reserve slide.

The plenum participants listened with genuine interest to the speech by T. Lakman, chairman of the Kalininskiy Rayon's "Pobeda" Kolkhoz. After the 27th CPSU Congress he moved from his own progressive farm to a laggard one. Just a year has passed. But the kolkhoz, which recently used to turn in the worst performance in the rayon, is now the leader. It has made the biggest profit in the rayon. If such "work-hungry," unstinting leaders can be found for just 70-80 loss-making farms, the Kirghiz agro-industrial complex could produce considerably more. But so far, it was stated at the plenum, not one "successful" leader has followed T. Lakman's example. What is more, only 19 of the 400 specialists dismissed following the amalgamation of ministries into the agro-industrial committee agreed to move to the countryside.

Echoes of the Past [subhead]

Questions of cadre policy are acute questions in Kirghizia today. Until recently all transfers, promotions and demotions, and people's destinies were decided in secret, or else just be a single person -- by T. Usubaliyev, former first secretary of the republic Communist Party Central Committee.

The veil of silence how now been torn, but, according to the old custom, Central Committee departments still try to "ration" information, B. Ryspayev, chairman of the republic State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, said. [paragraph continues]

Even Central Committee members do not always know the real reasons for cadre transfers. This is why the speech by M. Sherimkulov, chairman of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee Party Control Commission, was greeted with such interest. He spoke frankly and in detail about the reasons which led to the expulsion from the party of T. Usubaliyev, former first secretary of the Central Committee, and A. Karypkulov, former secretary of the Central Committee. He pointed to their insincere conduct during the party investigation and their desire to evade responsibility.

Communists who had sincerely believed their former party leaders found it bitter and offensive to hear that. But it is necessary to pass through this pain and bitterness, they said, in order not to repeat such a thing in the future and always check with principled criticism the actions of any worker, regardless of rank.

However, it must be pointed out that this tone was not always sustained at the plenum -- above all, in the report. It named many surnames of prominent leaders, including Central Committee secretaries and Bureau members. But the rebukes against them were of a nonspecific and attenuated nature, and criticism died down altogether when it was a question of serious violations.

Openness and frankness are important here not just in themselves. Without this there can be no question of real principledness and justice. The recent past provides a mass of examples of this, and not only the past. The name of A. Sultanov, chief of the Central Committee Transport and Communications Department, was mentioned at the plenum. He treated irresponsibly an investigation into a complaint by A. Bernikova, chief accountant of the Motor Transport and Highways Ministry Computer Center. For exposing the financial machinations of her chief she was dismissed and was unable to prove her case for 15 months. A. Sultanov did not find the time to investigate that statement carefully. On the other hand, he diligently "pushed through" a submission to award the honorary title of commander of Frunze Air Detachment to K. Kozubekov, although he was well aware that the leader in question had incurred three penalties in a year.

Kirghizia is today paying a very material price for at one time making mistakes in the quiet of an office. Despite real cadre changes (on the Central Committee alone all the secretaries and more than half the department chiefs have been replaced, and the composition of the Bureau has been significantly renewed), the inertia of the past is still making itself felt in many economic and social questions.

Yes, considerable effort must be made to accelerate the republic's development. The necessary conditions for this are openness, frankness, and honesty, particularly when resolving cadre questions.

KHARKOV OBKOM PLENUM 'CRITICIZES' CADRE SELECTION

PM171511 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 11 Apr 87 p 2

[Own correspondent V. Zenkovskiy report: "More Trust, Stricter Exactingness. From the Kharkov Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] There were frank, blunt talks at a Kharkov Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom Plenum on ways to accelerate and deepen the restructuring process and achieve a decisive improvement in work with cadres. Its participants spoke with alarm about painful topics, rightly criticized errors and shortcomings, and endorsed the urgent necessity for the more vigorous improvement of the style and methods of party work.

In his report the obkom first secretary, V. Mysnichenko, set the tone for an exacting discussion of the state of affairs in the oblast.

Analyzing one of the main spheres of part work -- the leadership of the economy -- he noted that, despite the steps taken to intensify production, to improve the economic machinery, switch enterprises to two- and three-shift working, and tighten the policy of thrift, the available manpower and scientific and technical potential is not being used to its full extent.

The 1986 plan for the sale of industrial output, taking into account delivery commitments, was only 98.8 percent fulfilled. The proportion of goods with the Seal of Quality dropped to 20.8 percent. Last year the shortfall in the planned top-quality category of output was equivalent to almost R100 million.

Revealing the reasons for this laggardness, the main speaker and those who spoke in the debate stressed that many economic leaders, because of the lack of control and excessive tolerance shown by party committees, continue the flawed practice of amending plans, are accustomed to chronic laggardness, and display confusion and the inability to mobilize collectives to overcome difficulties.

The extremely unsatisfactory results of industry's work in the first months of this year and the failures in virtually all technical and economic indicators demonstrate this, primarily the failure to meet output deliveries by such plants as the Tractor, Malyshev Electrical Engineering, Eighth Ball Bearing, "Elektromashina", Tool Building, Tractor Engines, and the Chuguyev Fuel Apparatus plants. The plenum participants said the main reason is, that the leaders of these enterprises continued to manage their collectives by "administrative order" methods, rarely consulted people, and did not take specialist opinions into account. While the party committees failed to stop the practice of economic leaders' endless assurances and promises.

Serious claims were made against the sector departments of party obkoms and their chiefs. They frequently play the role of either "troubleshooters" or mere recorders of facts; they do not avert the negative processes in the oblast's economy and their work with a view to the long term is poor. Some party committees cannot overcome the flawed practice of diverting leaders to attend all sorts of sessions, staff meetings, and plan discussions [planerki].

The following fact was cited at the plenum. During 1986 and 2 months of 1987 V. Goncharuk, manager of the "Kharkovspetsstroy" Trust, was invited to various meetings on 1,230 occasions, or an average of more than 20 times a week. This includes: 65 times to the obkom, 254 times to Kharkov Gorkom, 240 times to the gorispolkom, and 250 times to the Moskovskiy Party Raykom and Rayispolkom! When can a leader occupy himself with production matters given such an approach?

Serious shortcomings in the development of the social sphere were discussed with anxiety and alarm. The means allotted to social construction have not been fully assimilated. The obkom plenum demanded that the Communist leaders of the oblispolkom and Kharkov Gorispolkom, given a fundamental change in their attitude to implementing housing construction plans, develop the economic method more widely and pay more attention to setting up housing cooperatives.

Analyzing the errors and blunders, the plenum participants explained them by shortcomings in cadre policy. The oblast has recently taken the first steps toward the open election of leaders. [paragraph continues]

For example, at the elections of the first secretary of Sakhnovshchinskiy Party Raykom and the party committee secretaries of the "Turboatom" and "Kharkov Ordzhonikidze Tractor Plant" Production Associations Communists had the chance to discuss a number of candidates in advance, freely, and openly, and to vote for the most suitable ones. The principles of competition have already been applied to the election of more than 30 enterprise and organization leaders, and more than 2,000 shop and section chiefs and foremen.

But there are party gorkoms and raykoms in which cadre questions are, as before, resolved behind closed office doors, within small circles, and sometimes by the secretaries themselves. Recently, when replacing the director of the "Yuzhtranstekhprom" Plant and the deputy chairman of the Rayon Agroindustrial Association, Kharkovskiy Party Raykom First Secretary Ye. Bondarenko, who has worked in this post for about 20 years, not only did not consult the Communists but did not even inform the secretaries and members of the party raykom bureau of the candidates nominated.

The appearance in responsible posts of immature leaders is explained -- the speakers concluded -- by the absence of a trained reserve for promotion. In a number of cases even leaders of large associations and enterprises are selected in haste and are nominated to the post only because there are no better, capable people, the speakers noted. This is wrong. A reserve must be trained; energetic people who think and act in the new manner must be boldly encouraged. Party obkom departments and their secretaries must be answerable for this.

A number of major misappropriations of socialist property and serious abuses by officials for mercenary aims have recently come to light in the oblast. Leading officials of Velikoburlukskiy Rayon, including N. Tereshchenko, former first secretary of the party raykom, who took bribes, took the road of crime. For 5 years a group of embezzlers and bribetakers was active within the oblast consumer services administration system. Buryak, chief of the administration; Baycharov and Panchuk, his deputies; Artemenko, chief of the oblast supply and marketing administration; Boyko, chief controller of the Monitoring and Auditing Administration for Kharkov Oblast, and certain representatives of the militia are among the 40 arrested in this case. All of them have been expelled from the party and will appear in court.

Speaking from the plenum platform, V. Dyakov, fitter at the "Elektrotyazhmash" Plant, said with pain and alarm:

"It is particularly difficult for me as a member of the obkom and as a party group organizer to explain to my comrades at work cases of the violation of our ethical norms by communist leaders. How much we have talked about the honest and clean appearance of the party member?! But some people have not given up their old habits and continue to abuse their official position and use it for their personal aims. This is now harming the restructuring process and the improvement of our life most considerably."

Yes, not one violation of the law or departure from the ethical norm brought to light will remain unpunished. Those who committed errors in the placement and education of cadres and did not ensure the necessary monitoring of the sector of work entrusted to them will also get what they deserve. L. Stasevskiy and V. Baybikov, oblispolkom deputy chairmen; K. Kozyrenko, chief of a party obkom department; senior officials of the oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration, and others have been strictly penalized by the party for precisely this reason. Nonetheless, the abuses have not ceased. For example, abuses and embezzlement on a particularly large scale committed by Mikhaylyuk, former chief of the Rayon Special Construction Administration, during construction of the "Kiyevskiy" Motor Vehicle Garage Cooperative, have been exposed. [paragraph continues]

V. Vedernikov has been expelled from the CPSU and dismissed from his post as chief of "Obltopliv" for gross violations of party and state discipline and for squandering centrally allocated building materials during his time as chairman of Kharkov Gorispolkom. Those who did not discern the true essence of these people also received strict party penalties. K. Khirnyy, first secretary of Kharkov Party Gorkom, A. Lomakin, first secretary of Kiyevskiy Raykom, and Yu. Ponomarev, chairman of Kiyevskiy Rayispolkom, were among them.

Strict punishments, there are no two ways about it. But somehow measures are being taken only after the event. The plenum participants noted that this is the consequence of serious errors in cadre education. This means that it is necessary to close all loopholes allowing our laws to be evaded, and to be more exacting as regards the fulfillment of statutory requirements.

The plenum unanimously approved the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum and outlined practical measures for their implementation.

CPSU CC ADOPTS DECISION ON ALTAY KRAYKOM WORK

LD201818 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a decision on the organizational work of Altay Kraykom on introducing financial autonomy and progressive forms of labor organization in agricultural production. The decision notes that the Kray's party, local soviet, and economic bodies are not delving into the economics of agricultural production and are continuing to assess the activities of kolkhoz' and sovkhoz', according to quantitative indicators. Production of the basic types of agricultural produce is being carried out on an extensive basis, and no decisive acceleration in transfering all kolkhoz' and sovkhoz' and other enterprises to financial-autonomy operating principles has been achieved. Only 3 percent of farms have mastered start-to-finish contracting [skvoznoy podryad] with a shift to pay for final results for all workers. The actual cost of output production is greatly above the planned level, the prime cost of output production is greatly above the planned level, the prime cost of output is growing, and more than one half of farms are lossmakers or of low profitability. However, the kray does not have a clear program for overcoming their lagging behind and for transferring all enterprises in the agro-industrial complex to self-capitalization and self-financing. Food program tasks are not being fulfilled, especially with regard to grain production.

The CPSU Central Committee has charged Altay Kraykom with eliminating existing serious shortcomings in implementing the CPSU Central Committee resolution on urgent measures for raising labor productivity in agriculture, on the basis of introducing rational forms of labor organization and financial autonomy. It is suggested that efforts be concentrated on mastering, in each kolkhoz and sovkhoz, financial autonomy and collective contracting as major economic tools for raising production efficiency; that increased attention be paid to work on overcoming the lagging behind of low profitability and loss making farms, and that measures be effected to improve their economy; that work by party, local soviet and agro-industrial bodies, kolkhoz' and sovkhoz', to transfer agriculture to genuine financial autonomy, be made subordinate to the fulfillment and overfulfillment of plans for the sale of agricultural and livestock farming produce to the state, to the reduction of production costs, and to improving the quality of agricultural produce.

COSMONAUTS PREPARE ASSEMBLY OF SOLAR BATTERY

LD270957 Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS -- A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre:

The orbital mission of Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin is going on. In the past few days the cosmonauts were primarily engaged in unloading the space ferry Progress-29. They place the ferried equipment at the premises of the main unit and the astrophysical module.

The fight programme of the Mir orbital station provides for boosting the capacity of its power supply system by installing another solar battery. The battery consisting of two sections is brought by the Kvant module to the manned complex.

Preparations for assembly work in outer space starts today. The cosmonauts will check equipment necessary for a space walk, spacesuits [as received] and will specify the order of operations to be performed on the outer surface of the station.

Two space walks to assembly the solar batery are planned to be made early in May.

CORRESPONDENCE ON RIVER DIVERSION PUBLISHED

PM271159 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 April 1987 Morning Edition carries on page 4 under the heading "Who Should be Made Answerable?" a 900-word letter from staffers of the USSR Academy of Sciences Water Problems Institute and a 1,200-word reply from S. Zalygin, chief editor of NOVYY MIR, and Academician G. Petrov, department chief of the USSR Academy of Sciences Space Research Institute and chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences council for problems of the moon and the planets.

IZVESTIYA's introduction to the letter and the reply notes that the newspaper has received many letters in connection with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "on Suspending Work on Diverting Part of the Flow of Northern and Siberian Rivers" and that the letter from the Water Problems Institute has also been sent to the CPSU Central Committee.

The letter from Water Problems Institute staffers S. Lezhneva, V. Privalskiy, and S. Trunilina and others, "16 signatures in all," complains of the "intolerable provocative tone" of an article by G.I. Petrov published in the first issue of the journal NASH SOVREMENNIK for 1987 under the heading "Science's Responsibility" accusing the institute of preparing a "wide-scale ecological and economic crime" and "an intolerably low standard of scientific developments" in the river diversion project. "This article is written in the style of the worst traditions of the time of the personality cult," the authors assert, claiming that its author misconstrues openness as an opportunity "to deal rudely and with impunity with inconvenient people, collectives, and even avenues of scientific-technical progress." The article's accusations are "utterly unfounded," the letter continues, asserting that there has been no scientific criticism of the institute's work.

"As for the criticism of whole collectives and scientific avenues perpetrated by G.I. Petrov and S. Zalygin (NOVYY MIR No 1, 1987) and several others fully accords with the ill-starred memory of the ethical norms of the school of T.D. Lysenko and is in no need of comment."

In their reply Zalygin and Petrov assert that from the outset the activity of the authors of the river diversion project was a "taboo" subject for the press and that before the resolution on suspending work on the project was published five departments of the USSR Academy of Sciences had disputed the forecasts which formed its basis: A "serious investigation of the methods of forecasting the change in the level of the Caspian Sea elaborated at the Water Problems Institute" showed that "this work had been carried out in a mathematically incorrect way." Moreover, Petrov's accusations were not based on hearsay, as the institute staffers allege: He had made a study of issues of the journal edited by G.V. Voropayev, the director of the Water Problems Institute, discovered "over 30 works which were completely mathematically illiterate." Voropayev, the authors of the reply say, "represented the project as its most active participant and as the chief state expert for... the same project. A curious fact, is it not, in the organizational and moral respect and even on the plane of the politeness for which the authors of the letter are now militating?"

Finally, referring to the government decision to launch the river diversion project, Zalygin and Petrov comment that "it was the selfsame Water Problems Institute which, not alone of course, but with other organizations interested in the project, prepared for the Council of Ministers the preliminary materials on whose basis it took its decision. Having taken this decision the Council of Ministers handed over its execution to the same people who had been the initiators of this undertaking. And then? And then the initiators, as soon as they are reproached for anything, take the attitude: What's it got to do with us? All we were doing was zealously fulfilling the government decision, nothing more!" NOVYY Mir will "unfailingly publish letters sent to it from the leaders of your own and other institutes and water economy institutions. The journal's editorial office has been obliged to delay publication because letters on this subject are still coming in and we must also consider readers' opinion as fully as possible."